

Sunday, April 21, 2013

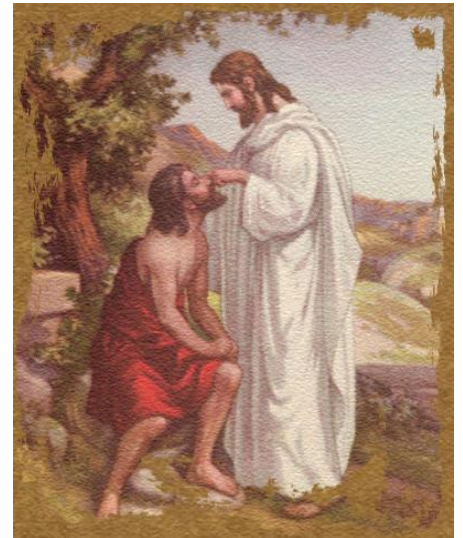
God's Plans

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.”
(John 9:3)

The conversation that took place between Jesus and the disciples, before the miracle of opening the eyes of the born blind, demonstrates to us how great is the difference between the way mankind thinks and God's, **“For as the heavens are higher than the earth , so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”** (Isaiah 55:9), **“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”** (Romans 11:33).

Nonetheless, because of God's love, he allows us to have this dialogue with Him so that our minds are gradually enlightened through His wisdom and knowledge.

In this particular situation, the Lord Jesus draws our attention towards His plans that are carefully prepared so that God is glorified through them. These arrangements never even crossed the minds of people, rather they were so focused on whether this disability was the result of the man's own sin or his parent's sins. However, **Jesus would like us to open our understanding to other possibilities** that we may only recognize in due time. Similarly, everything that takes place in our lives **is according to a divine plan that we have not understood just yet nor have we discovered its purpose.** However, we do trust that God will reveal everything to us **in due time.**



We may go through difficult circumstances or harsh situations; we may face to the ridicule of others or be subject to false accusations and be surrounded by darkness. Nonetheless, eventually, **God visit us and miraculously open our eyes so we become an example to many** as He did with the born blind.

These are the mysterious arrangements of God.

If we believe in this we will not care for what people say or wonder about us because it doesn't benefit us in the first place, but we will **wait patiently for the Lord and we trust that not one who waits on Him is ashamed.**

In short, the Lord Jesus wants to elevate our faith and vision from the level of what is lawful and what is unlawful, from the level of sin and punishment, from the level of righteousness and reward, the level of judging people to a higher level. He wants to elevate us to the level of His salvation for all which we are honored to be part of.

If we live by this faith, many of the question marks in our lives will be eliminated and our spiritual eyes will be opened so we may say with the born blind: **“though I was blind, now I see.”** (John 9:25).

Fr. Yohanna Naseef

fryohanna@hotmail.com

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine, IL