

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent -A

*Last week we heard about thirst – Woman at the Well*

*This week we hear about vision – being able to see*

Today we hear about the blind man AND the blind Pharisees

We also hear about Samuel's search for a new king – a search that'll help explain Gospel

#### Saul in King of Israel

Saul has sinned and God rejects him as king & wants to anoint another

He sends the prophet Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint a new king

Bring me all your sons - so Jesse calls in all his sons (almost)

*NB – God is never satisfied with 'almost'*

So Samuel sees the eldest, Eliab, and he thinks 'surely this is the Lord's anointed'

God "Don't judge by appearance not as man sees does God see

Man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart"

So all Jesse's sons come before Samuel and all are rejected

Samuel asks "Is this it?" Jesse "Well . . . there is the youngest"

What does this say about Jesse's opinion of David?

How well could Jesse see?

("Don't judge by appearance not as man sees does God see

Man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart")

#### **Million \$ Question:**

#### **What is there about David that will make him a better king than Saul?**

We know that both men sinned – let's look at that

SAUL – about to battle Philistines – waiting for Samuel to bless them

Samuel is late, his troops begin to desert him, so (in fear)

HE violates the covenant and offers the holocaust rather than wait

*OK – Saul has sinned – been reproved – what does he do?*

He goes about his business fighting the Philistines **(no repentance)**

DAVID – Bathsheba – Uriah – confronted by Nathan the prophet

*OK – David has sinned – been reproved – what does he do?*

He repents, acknowledges his sin – sackcloth and ashes

**NB not as man sees does God see**

**Man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart"**

God seeks a repentant hearts – hearts willing to be converted to HIM

If God examined our heart what would he find?

In Gospel the Pharisees have sign of the Messiah right in front of them

Pride & Arrogance blind them – "Surely we are not blind are we"?

Jesus says "Because you say you can see (but don't believe) your sin remains"

LENT is our time to repent, to abandon sin, so that we might truly see

We can continue about our business like SAUL

Or we can repent like DAVID – I beg you to be like DAVID

Salvation comes through forgiveness of sin - Use this Lent to repent & come home