

4th Sunday of Lent -A

Bring \$20 bill and bucket of mud:

I have here a \$20 bill – anybody want it?

Drop it on the floor and step on it – anybody want it?

Crumple it up – anybody want it?

Bring up the mud – anybody want it?

We want it – because we know it has value – even crushed and muddy.

I want to take a minute and have us imagine what it must be like to be the blind man:

- Born blind from birth
- Parents knew him – but he had to beg, they weren't taking care of him
- Parents probably dropped him off at the gate each day
- Cast off – rejected – ridiculed
- *Assumption that he had sinned* – even by the disciples
- His value, was squat

- Then you have David (what was his worth in his father's eyes?)
 - o Jesse doesn't even have him in the room

- Each of us has, at some point has felt rejection, hurt, broken, cast off.
- Yet each of us is beloved – IN OUR BROKENNESS, Jesus calls us home

The blind man was physically challenged – but he's not handicapped
HE IS ABLE TO RECOGNIZE JESUS – He's living in the Light of Christ.

Each of us has a choice – live in the light of Christ – or not.

To embrace the **liberation** that comes in knowing – despite being covered in mud
Despite being covered in sin
Despite being less than perfect
WE ARE PRECIOUS

Scripture says that God refines us like silver

Silver – precious but it tarnishes

God polishes us – over and over again

Even after the cross – covered in the blood

we still need to be polished

Lent is about letting ourselves be polished – acknowledging we need it.

The blind man let Jesus make mud out of spit and put it on his eyes.

“That the works of God might be made visible through him”

- This Lent – if we submit to Jesus, if we let Jesus touch us, the same is possible for us.
- The light of Christ can be made visible in us – if we surrender, let Him heal, ...