

4th Sunday of Lent

March 2, 2008

(1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41)

Theme: Your blessings from God can be delayed, but can never be denied.

Today we are presented with the call and the anointing of David by God to be the King of Israel. God instructed the prophet, Samuel, to go to the house of Jesse. There he will anoint one of Jesse's sons to be the king of Israel. On arriving at the house of Jesse, when the children of Jesse came out, Samuel looked closely at one of Jesse's sons, Eliab. Seeing how handsome and tall he was, Samuel thought this is the one God has chosen, but God said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see --- for the Lord looks on the heart."

They waited until the youngest of them, David, came back from the field where he was tending his father's flock. Immediately David arrived, God said to the prophet Samuel, rise and anoint him for he is the chosen one. With this story, we come to understand that our favours or blessings from God can be delayed but can never be denied. It further shows us that God has a plan for each and every one of us. Your height or your appearance has nothing to do with God's plan for you. May we always remember that whether you are a child, weak, old, male or female, nothing can remove God's plan or blessing from you.

As a child, David was obedient to his parents, tending his father's sheep, from there he met God's blessings. Likewise, if we remain obedient and sincere to our duties and careers, we shall meet God's blessings for us.

In our gospel narrative today, we see the healing of the man by Christ who was born blind. After the healing of the blind man, he believed and stood firm in his faith in Christ. With all the blessings in our lives and families, may we always bear witness to the gospel and stand firm in our belief in God.