



PONTIFICIA
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Meditation on Luke 10:21-24

'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!' is the message at the end of today's Gospel. It is a sentence that does not really seem to fit in with our times. What we see, especially in the Church, seems neither to be a cause for joy nor to contribute to the feeling that we are living in a particularly blessed time. For years, if not decades, the Church has been plagued by the abuse scandal and the harsh criticism that has accompanied it. No wonder some people find it too much, lose their joy in serving the Church, and become resigned and discouraged. Many wonder what all this has to do with them. They are not abusers; they have not actively covered anything up, and yet they have to answer to the public for something for which they are obviously not to blame.

All of this is somehow understandable, and yet one thing must be kept in mind. Those who are truly affected, those who are truly suffering, are those who have experienced abuse and whose lives have often taken a difficult course as a result; and not only theirs, but also those of their families, friends and loved ones, who have had to learn to deal with deeply wounded people.

It was they who were not taken seriously for years, and perhaps this is still partly the case today, while we celebrate our faith in the liturgy, pursue our professions, cultivate our own vocations, and simply live our lives. Is this fair? There is probably no simple answer to this question, but an important and, at the same time, impressive question arises right next to it. It is the question that God already asked Cain in the Old Testament: Where is your brother? (Gen 4:9). It is the question that has particularly affected and challenged all of us who see ourselves as Christians and form a community as a church, at least since we became aware of the cases of abuse within the Church's sphere of responsibility.

Were we too careless in our dealings with one another, and did we overlook and ignore someone when they wanted to tell us about abuse within the Church? Were we perhaps too complacent when something seemed strange to us, when we noticed something, to investigate the matter further? Were we perhaps too cowardly to speak out critically, even though we observed some borderline behaviour? Did we believe, hope and love too little, too superficially, to stand in solidarity with those who suffered injustice within the Church?

These questions lead deep into our faith. It is not an unworldly faith; it is faith in the incarnate Son of God. This faith is a world-changing faith, dedicated to the salvation of the world and

humanity. The abuse scandal has shaken this certainty. Our faith is being called into question. We clearly need to rediscover, revive, and deepen our faith, taking it more seriously as a powerful force in our lives.

Seen in this light, we are at a turning point towards a renewed, deeper faith. This faith knows that God is on the side of the little ones, the vulnerable, and is especially close to them. He reveals himself to them in a special way. We should follow God's example and recognise what is required of us. If we succeed in this, it is a gift of God's grace that enables us to repent and improve. Then the following will also apply to our days: 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see' (Lc 10:23). Victims of abuse experience justice, the Church as a whole recognises its guilt, repents and turns to God anew out of faith.

Prayer

Lord our God, You are the Lord of history. You reveal Yourself to us in our everyday lives. You speak to us in the signs and events of this world. Send Your Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may increasingly recognise what needs to be done. Grant us the strength to repent and change, so that we may become more and more like your Son, Jesus Christ, and live our lives as true disciples of Jesus.

Question

How do I assess my willingness to allow myself and the way I live my faith to be critically questioned again and again in order to better follow my calling as a Christian?

