

Live in the Light

This Week's Readings at Mass

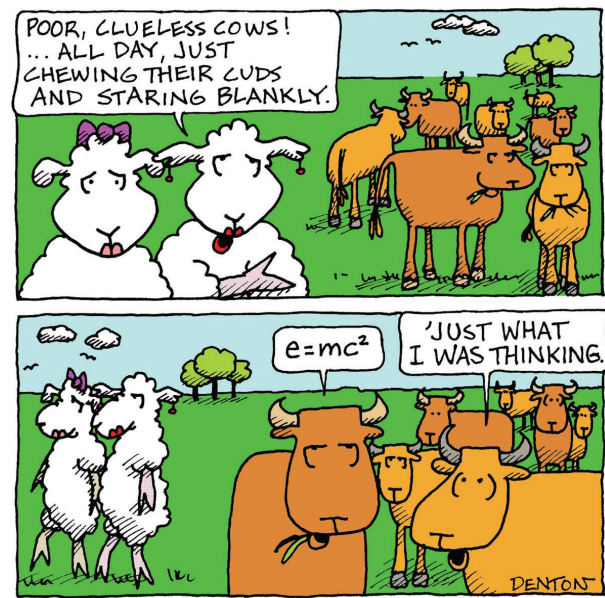
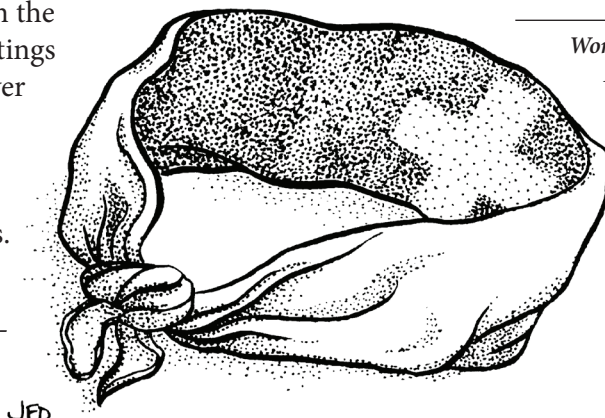
- 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a • Samuel anoints David
- Ephesians 5:8-14 • Live in the light
- John 9:1-41 • The man born blind

“Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth...Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness, rather expose them ... for everything exposed by the light becomes visible” (Eph 5:8-9, 11, 13).

Jesus (and later, St. Paul) had a lot to say about living in the light, doing things in the light, and being honest and transparent about one's words and actions. In his conversations and interactions, Jesus repeatedly exposed hypocrisy, injustice, and greed. He wasn't afraid to point out posturing—people jockeying to sit in the positions of honor at the table or making a show of giving alms. He observed community leaders privately and publicly judging other people's sinfulness—the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and the woman caught in adultery. He called out abusive practices—Roman soldiers conscripting citizens to carry their loads for a mile or using physical force to demean or subdue others (striking on the cheek). Jesus' eyes were wide open to the injustice and oppression around him, and he wasn't afraid to expose it, speak out against it, or call the offenders on it.

Contrast Jesus' habit of speaking and doing things openly (healing the man born blind outright on the Sabbath!) to that of people with power who met secretly to plot his death or Judas who went covertly to the officials to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that much injustice and sin in the world are born in secret meetings of people with wealth or power or individuals making decisions alone without the accountability of others asking questions or raising concerns.

Today's Gospel story offers a perfect metaphor for the contrast between light and dark,



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“Not as man sees does God see.”

Sheepish Question:

How can I broaden my perspective to view life around me with the eyes of God?

seeing and blindness, openness, and secrecy. If we are tempted to keep something secret (which is not the same as respecting confidentiality), that's usually a red flag. If we are afraid of something we say or do being made public, should we be saying or doing it in the first place? On the other hand, if we are “living it the light” we will have nothing to be ashamed of.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Share about a time when you had to “come clean” by exposing something you did to the light? What came of that experience?
- 2 Share some examples of injustices done or allowed in the dark. What happened when they became public?

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