

Blind Beggar

Jesus in the Gospel does not respond to expectation. Jesus does not respond to the crowd. Jesus responds to the person before him

Jesus does not act in order to impress. Jesus does not act in order to justify his role.

Jesus acts in response to the person before him

Jesus is the Son of God. The second person of the Trinity. The divine presence upon earth.

The beggar is a poor man in shabby clothes.

We wonder at the miracle

Equally beautiful the humility of God who has time, and the vision, and the kindness to speak personally to this victim of circumstance.

The great Martin Luther King Junior leader of the 1960s civil rights movement at the height of his popularity arrived at an airport in preparation for a protest demonstration that was top take place in that area. There were a great number of dignitaries who waited to greet him. There were a great many people who had gone out to meet him. Cadillac's and other prestigious vehicles had been hired to drive him to a chapel were a meeting was to take place.

Martin Luther King did not travel from the airport to the chapel in a Cadillac.

Martin Luther King did not travel from the airport to the chapel with the local dignitaries.

Martin Luther King climbed into an old beaten up truck that belonged to a poor local farmer. It was with this man that he made his way to the meeting.

There will have been many miracles on that day

With dignity, pride, defiance.

But the story of the poor farmer driving the great Martin Luther King in his beaten up old truck is surley the most beautiful.

As a student I was sent to learn of what priesthood was from a Fr cash working in Newcastle.

This man ran a furniture recycling system for the poor. It was truly amazing what he could load onto the roof rack of his small car. Beds, wardrobes, settees, anything.

One particular day a frail young girl rang the doorbell of the house looking for help. She had just had a baby. The baby was healthy but had obviously drawn all the energy out of this fragile creature. Exhausted, and expected now to use life skills that her age made impossible. She had got a house from the council. Could Fr Cash provide some furniture?

By chance that day he had no furniture to give.

But he spoke to her with such respect

He spoke to her with such dignity

He made her feel beautiful
And she for a moment became again beautiful
Ironically leaving with nothing but a promise
She left with nothing but the care and goodness of this very holy man.

A man who could see
Not the victim
Not the beggar
But the person.

When speaking to small children celebrate the miracle, see the person
When tempted to patronise someone of great age celebrate the miracle, see the person
When recognising special needs celebrate the miracle, recognise also the person
Even when living with those to whom familiarity has made you blind, celebrate the miracle, see the
person

It is our faith to follow the example of Christ Jesus
Follow that example and learn to see
And miracles can happen.