

JULY 26 2025 FATHER ROSHAN LOY D'SOUZA

I can't help but feel a sense of gratitude for living in a time when the revelation of God through Jesus Christ is readily accessible.

Seeing is often synonymous with understanding. A common expression in everyday life is, "I see," meaning, "I understand or comprehend." When Jesus said, "Blessed are your eyes, for they see," he had been explaining that he spoke in parables because the people closed their eyes and ears to his teachings. He was commending the disciples upon their open and receptive thought, which brought spiritual understanding.

The disciples experienced a unique moment in history, and yet, through the Scriptures, we too have the privilege of encountering the transformative teachings of Jesus our Lord.

There is an intimate and personal tone in Jesus' words. He addresses his disciples directly, saying, "Blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear." It is a moment of acknowledgment and affirmation. Jesus is recognizing not just their physical senses, but the depth of their spiritual perception.

The use of the word "blessed" adds a layer of significance, suggesting divine favour and approval. The subsequent statement, "For most certainly I tell you that many prophets and righteous people desired to see the things which you see and didn't see them, and to hear the things which you hear and did not hear them," introduces a poignant contrast.

Jesus is revealing the uniqueness of the disciples' experience. The prophets and righteous individuals of old, in their devotion and yearning for God, longed for the revelations that the disciples were now receiving.

The emphasis on blessed eyes and ears underscores the idea that understanding the mysteries of the kingdom is not merely an intellectual

exercise. It is a profound blessing, a gift from God. This challenges us to value not just knowledge, but spiritual insight and understanding.

Jesus is positioning himself as the revealer of truths that were hidden or not fully understood in previous times, maybe in the Old Testament. The disciples are not just witnesses to historical events. They are recipients of a unique and transformative revelation in Christ Jesus.

This reinforces the centrality of Jesus in God's redemptive plan. By acknowledging the disciples' spiritual perception, Jesus is asserting his authority as the one who reveals the mysteries of the kingdom. This has implications for our understanding of Jesus, not just as a teacher, but as the authoritative source of divine revelation.

As I reflect on these verses, I'm drawn to consider the depth of my own spiritual perception. Do my eyes truly see the mysteries of God's kingdom? Do my ears hear the profound truths that Jesus is revealing to me? It's a reminder that spiritual understanding is not automatic.

It is a blessing that comes from a receptive heart and a desire to know God intimately and personally. So, prayer is a relationship. The passage we heard underscores the immense value of spiritual understanding. It's not just about possessing knowledge. It's about grasping the deeper meanings of God's redemptive plan.

This challenges me to prioritize spiritual insight in my journey of faith, and to seek understanding beyond surface-level comprehension. We are called to see and hear, to receive the information we are then helped to understand.

So, how do we see and hear the word of God today? Hearing the word of God is obviously accomplished through reading, or hearing someone else who is reading out the words of the Bible, the Scripture. But how do we see the word today?

The answer is simple, yet we often do not think about it or utilize it in the way we could. We see the word of God today when we fellowship, when we come together for Eucharist, with those with whom the word lives today.

The apostle John referred to this very fact when he wrote, "What we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

St. Paul makes the connection even more clearly: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ," and, "What you have learned and received, heard and seen in me, practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

In the Epistle to the Hebrews we read, "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you. And considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith."

Inasmuch as others follow God, we can learn from them by seeing the word alive in their lives. We must also hear the written word in order to know when others are imitating Christ, but the combined hearing and seeing guides us in growing more like Christ ourselves.

This is how we all have the opportunity to hear and see the word of God. Even those who are not blessed with physical sight or hearing in this life can see and hear the Lord in his way.

Let us open our hearts and open our senses to see the presence of God, be it in our personal life, family, or with the people we meet. Let this be our prayer as we celebrate this Eucharist.

Amen.