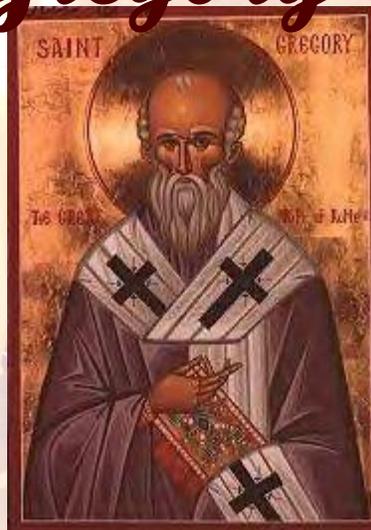


Unfit for the Service

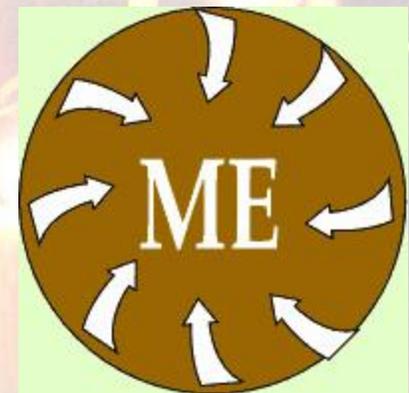


From: Pastoral Rule
By: St. Gregory the Great



Let everyone measure himself...

- Wherefore let everyone measure himself wisely, lest he venture to assume a place of rule, while in himself vice still reigns unto condemnation; lest one whom his own guilt depraves desire to become an intercessor for the faults of others. (St. Gregory)
 - Examine ourselves!
 - Do we still have faults?
 - Faults may make us unfit to serve



Who may NOT serve?

- “Speak unto Aaron: Whosoever he be of your seed throughout their generations that has a blemish, he shall not offer loaves of bread to the Lord his God” (Leviticus 21:17).

17 قُلْ لِهَرُونَ: لَا يُقَرَّبُ رَجُلٌ مِنْ نَسْلِكَ فِيهِ عَاهَةٌ ذَبَائِحَ
لِإِلَهِهِ عَلَى مَدَى أَجْيَالِهِمْ،

Who may NOT serve?

- “If he be blind, if he be lame, if he have either a small or a large and crooked nose, if he be broken-footed or broken-handed, if he be hunch-backed, if he be blear-eyed (blepharitis), if he have a white speck (albuginem) in his eye, if chronic scabies, if impetigo in his body, or if he be ruptured (ponderosus)” (Lev 21:18-20).

فَكُلُّ رَجُلٍ مُصَابٍ بِعَاهَةٍ لَا يَتَقَدَّمُ سِوَاءَ أَكَانَ أَعْمَى أَمْ أُعْرَجَ أَمْ

19 وَلَا مَكْسُورَ الْيَدِ أَوْ

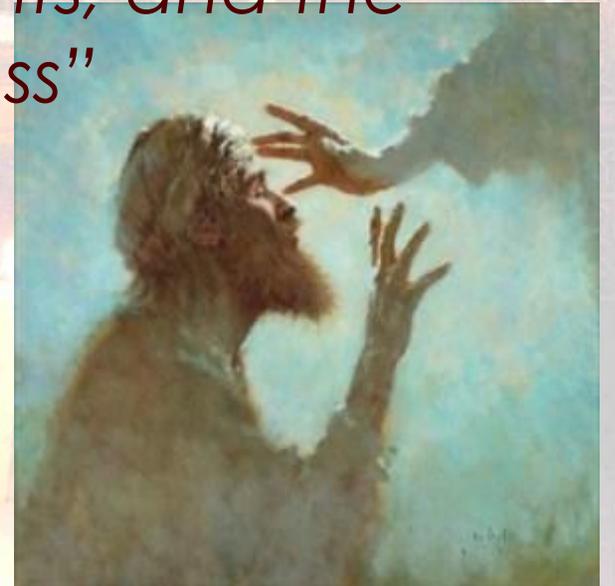
20 مُشَوَّهَ الْوَجْهِ أَمْ فِيهِ عَضْوٌ

أَحْدَبَ وَلَا قَرْمَ، أَوْ مَنْ فِي عَيْنِهِ بَيَاضٌ، وَلَا الْأَجْرَبَ وَلَا الْأَكْلَفَ وَلَا

مَرْضُوضَ الْخُصْيَةِ.

Blind -

- Unacquainted with the Light
- Whelmed in the darkness of the present life
- **Knows not whither he is advancing the steps of his conduct**
 - Does not know where he is going, or stepping
- *“He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness”*
(1 Kings 2:9)

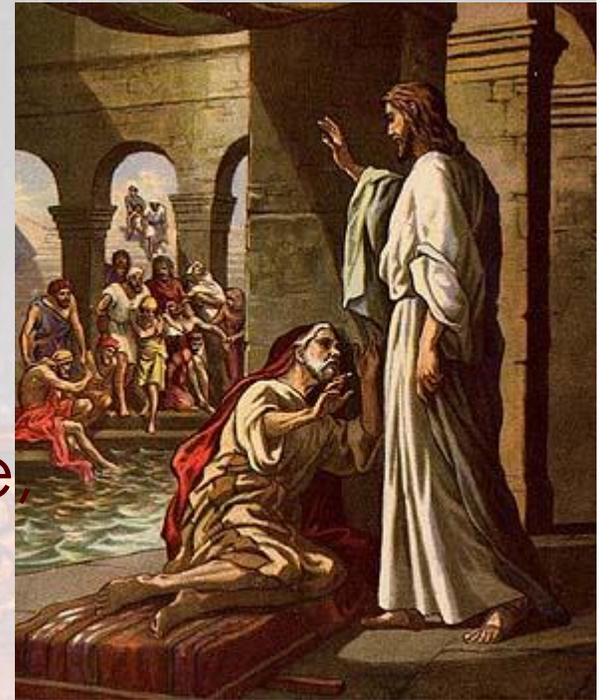


Lame -

- One who does indeed see in what direction he ought to go, but, through infirmity of purpose **is unable to keep perfectly the way of life which he sees**

- Unable to rise above his faults to walk a spiritual life

- *“Lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.”* (Hebrews 12:12-13)



A Small Nose

- **One who is not adapted for keeping the measure of discernment**
 - Can't discern sweet odors from stench
 - Can't discern righteousness from evil
- *"Your nose is as the tower which is in Lebanon"* (Song 7:4)
- *"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and **all discernment**"* (Phil 1:9)



A Large and Crooked Nose

- **Excessive subtlety of discernment**
- confuses the correctness of its operation
- busy themselves often more than needs in various investigations – busybody
- *“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a **busybody** in other men's matters.”*
(1Pet 4:15)



Broken Foot or Hand

مَكْسُورَ الْيَدِ أَوْ الرَّجْلِ

- Cannot walk in the way of God at all
- Without part or lot in good deeds
- “You shall **walk** in all the ways which the Lord your **God** has commanded you, that you may live...” (Deut 5:33)



Hunchbacked -



- **Weight of earthly care bows down**
- **He never looks up**

- Is intent only on what is trodden on among the lowest

- Even if he hears of the heavenly, his posture does not allow him to seek it, as he is weighed down by the earthly

- *“But the seed which fell among thorns are they which, when they have heard the word, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of life, and bear no fruit.” (Luke 8:14)*

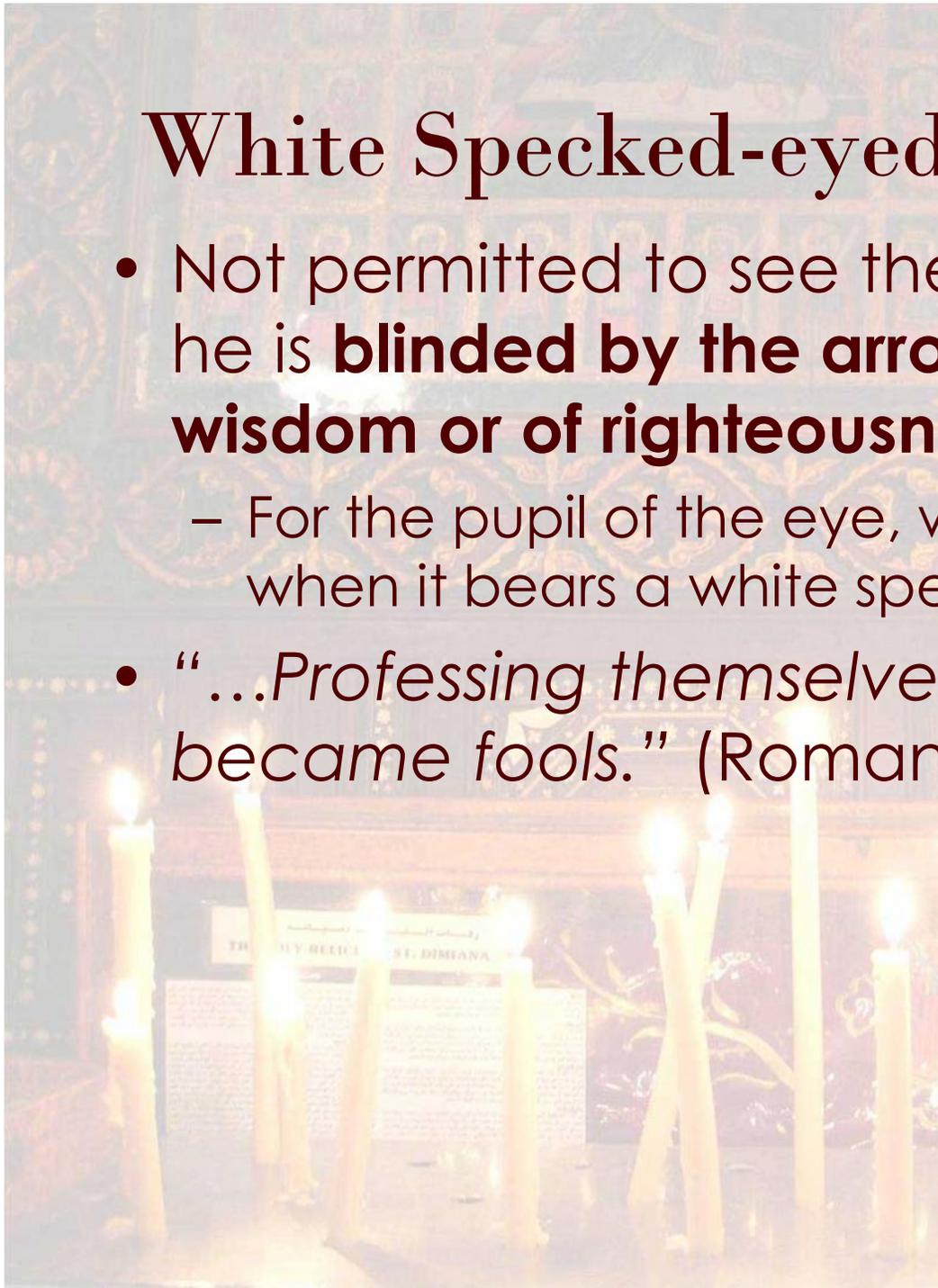
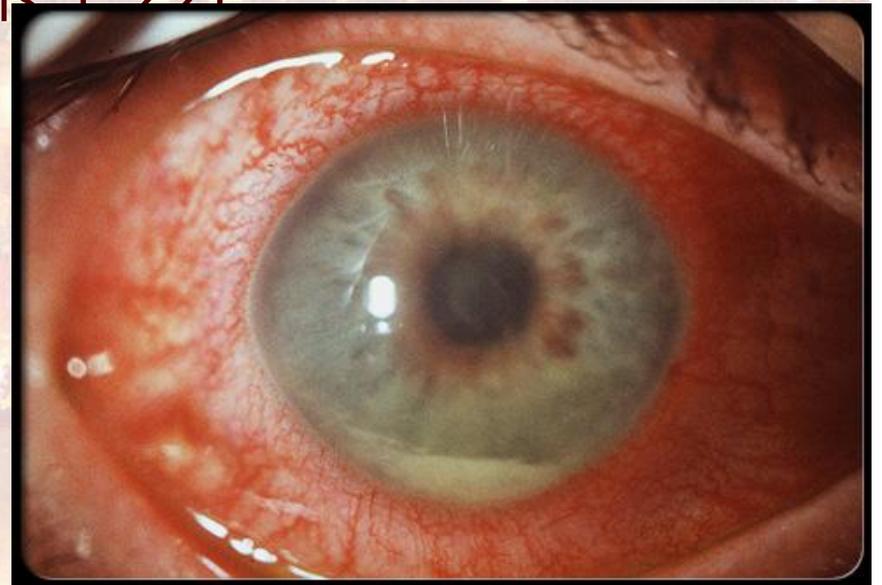
Blear-eyed (*blepharitis*) - العينين

- A disease of the eyelids, consisting of chronic inflammation of the margins, with a gummy secretion of sebaceous matter
 - the pupils are sound; but the eyelids, weakened
 - **He illuminates in understanding of the Truth, yet his eyes are darkened by earthly conduct**
- “Anoint your eyes with eyesalve that you may see.” (Revelation 3:18)



White Specked-eyed - فِي عَيْنِهِ بَيَاضٌ

- Not permitted to see the light of truth, in that he is **blinded by the arrogant assumption of wisdom or of righteousness**.
 - For the pupil of the eye, when black, sees; but, when it bears a white speck, sees nothing.
- “...Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” (Romans 1:22)



Scabies -

- **Wantonness of the flesh overmasters the body without cease**

- The violent heat of the bowels is drawn to the skin
- The heat of the evil desires become actions
- He is covered in ugly wounds
- *while sensuality is not repressed in thought, it gains the mastery also in action*

- *“Let no temptation take you but such as is human” (1 Cor 10:13)*

- It is human to suffer temptation in the heart; but it is devilish, in the struggle of temptation, to be also overcome in action.



Impetigo -

- A contagious skin infection that usually produces blisters or sores
- Impetigo invades the body without pain, spreads with no annoyance, and disfigures the beauty of the members.
- **One is ravaged in the mind by greed**
 - Greed corrodes the mind, offering one gain after another, gives no pain to the body, but disfigures the other virtues, corrodes the whole body corrupting the mind with sins
 - *“The love of money is the root of all evils.”*
(1 Timothy 6:10)



Ruptured (Eunuch-ness)

الْحُصِيَّةُ -

- Does not carry immorality into action, but yet is **immoderately weighed down by it in mind through continual thought.**
 - Does not carry out the action, but the mind is flooded with the pleasure of sin.
 - He can not practice good, because he is weighted down by the hidden shame of his immoral thoughts.
- *“But Jesus, knowing their **thoughts**, said, “Why do you think **evil** in your hearts?” (Matt 9:4)*



Infirmities Unfit for the Service

1. **Blind:** does not know where to step or go
2. **Lame:** unable to rise to walk a spiritual life
3. **Small Nose:** lacks discernment
4. **Large, Crooked Nose:** busybody
5. **Broken foot or hand:** can not walk or work
6. **Hunchbacked:** can not look above
7. **Blear-Eyed:** understands, but can not see
8. **White specked-eyed:** blinded by arrogance
9. **Scabies:** practices immorality continuously
10. **Impetigo:** ravished by greed
11. **Ruptured:** mind flooded by immorality

Workshop

- **Group:**

How does each of these infirmities affect the service in your class?

- Practically, what would be observed/practiced due to this infirmity?

- **Self:**

If you suffer from one of these infirmities, put together a plan to find a remedy.