

Saturday, January 23, 2021

By Rev. Michael Salemink

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." ~ 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Invisibility - Shortcoming or Superpower

Violet Parr has invisibility for a superpower. The daughter of Disney's Incredibles lives a teenager's dream. She can disappear. Jealous?

Some of our neighbors have invisibility, but they see it as less of a blessing. Our culture leaves them out because of their elderly age, puts them down because of their unborn appearance, pushes them aside because of their impaired abilities. And if you come in the wrong size, with the wrong skills, from the wrong circumstances, society turns you invisible too. They may even use abortion or physician-assisted suicide to end your life.

But nobody really vanishes. Sinfulness just makes us blind. We don't want to see each other's needs because they confront us with our own weaknesses. We treat those close to us like they don't exist because we wish we could disappear ourselves. We focus only on our own fears and desires. We ignore God's requirements. We overlook our neighbors' rights. We become villains.

So, God puts on a superhero mask. We know the Heavenly Father by His disguise the same way Gotham City recognizes Batman. The Almighty Maker humbles His majesty under modesty so as not to frighten. He hides His might behind mortality to keep from threatening us. He reveals His saving love in servanthood. Jesus, the gentle embryo and simple peasant, takes on our guilt and turns it invisible, forsaken in crucified forgiveness. Compassion as real as skin and sweat and close as blood and bone.

And He who opened His own tomb also opens our eyes and our hearts. His grace lets us behold the life inside. We perceive the precious treasure God has made us, and we notice the gift and privilege He creates, redeems, and calls into every neighbor. We speak this truth, show this love, and celebrate together forever - a superpower of our very own!

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, open my eyes to behold Your gifts. Amen.