

Lenten Days of Prayer
March 19, 2020
“The Man Born Blind” (John 9:1-41)
Presenter: Kathy Berken



Opening Prayer

Lord, open our eyes, that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.

Lord, open our ears, that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.

Lord, open our hearts, that we may love each other as you love us.

Renew in us your spirit.

Lord, free us and make us one.

Amen.

John 9:1-12

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹⁰“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So, I went and washed, and then I could see.”

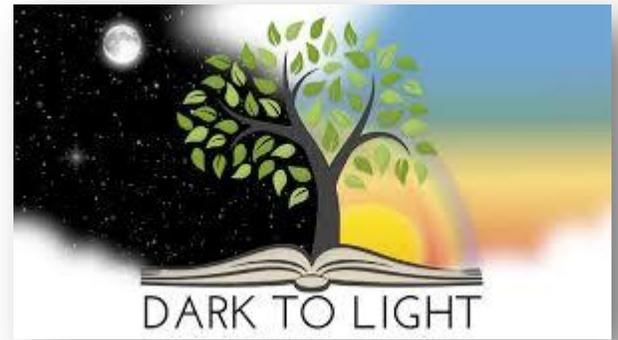
¹²“Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

Blindness → Light and Sight

Key elements:

- ✚ Jesus is paying attention
- ✚ The use of common elements: Spit and Dirt
- ✚ Jesus heals on the Sabbath
- ✚ The man walks further than Jewish law allows
- ✚ “Siloam” means “sent”
- ✚ Jewish culture: ailments are the result of sin. Jesus refutes that idea.
- ✚ Jesus calls himself the light of the world, allowing others to see.



Quotes

1. “I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.” – John Newton
2. “The eyes are useless when the mind is blind.” – anon.
3. “There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.” — Soren Kierkegaard
4. “Had I been in love, I could not have been more wretchedly blind. But vanity, not love, has been my folly.” — Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
5. “Just because you are blind, and unable to see my beauty doesn't mean it does not exist.” — Margaret Cho
6. “Nothing is easier than self-deceit. For what every man [*sic*] wishes, that he also believes to be true.” — Demosthenes
7. “To crooked eyes truth may wear a wry face” — J.R.R. Tolkien
8. “In the valley of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.” — August Wilson, *Gem of the Ocean*
9. “. . . many newly sighted people speak well of the world, and teach us how dull is our own vision.” — Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
10. “There are none so blind as those who will not see.” – Ancient proverb

Reflection Questions

- ✚ In the story of the Man Born Blind, who you most identify with? Describe what that means to you and why.
- ✚ Recall a time when you were blind, but eventually found the light of wisdom or compassion.
- ✚ What do these words of Jesus mean to you? “I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”
- ✚ What are some common elements that help you to “see” better?