

opened my eyes. [Being Pharisees, you should know about Jesus!] ³¹ We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.

[Common knowledge spoken by the man who had been blind, yet the Pharisees missed it because they were blind!] ³² **Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.** [Yes, what Jesus did was a HUGE thing, yet God told us through Isaiah that the Messiah would “open blind eyes” (Isaiah 42:7 NAU)!] ³³ If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out.

8. **Jesus Brings the Truth** – ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” ³⁸ And he said, “Lord, I believe.” [How do we know?] And he worshiped Him. [He honored Jesus as being most important to him. **What do you worship? What is most important to you?**] ³⁹ And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see [Jesus wants the spiritually blind to see their sins and receive Him as Savior!], and that those who see may become blind [That those who look at their own works for heaven may become blind to such things and see Jesus as the only Savior!].” ⁴⁰ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Conclusion: Now, thankful for physical sight, let us also ♦see our sin, ♦receive Jesus as Savior, ♦know we have God’s forgiveness, and ♦be at peace! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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Blindness

Physical is Sad, Spiritual is Worse!

Based on John 9:1-41

4th Sunday in Lent – 2011 † April 3 → 8:00 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, try to imagine what it would be like to be born blind: **Close your eyes**; then imagine you have NEVER ♦beheld God’s creation, ♦seen your loved ones, ♦read a book, or ♦watched a movie. To be physically blind is SAD, but to be spiritually blind is WORSE – to NOT see ☹the condemning power of sin or ☹Jesus as God’s perfect Son. In today’s gospel reading, we will encounter both types of blindness!

1. **Who Sinned?** – ¹ As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” [Have you ever been suffering and cried out: God, what did I do to deserve this?] ³ Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. [Therefore, when we suffer, let us know that God is at work, He has a plan!] ⁴ **We must work the works of Him who sent Me** as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. [Remember, God has made us alive in Jesus to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).] ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” As Jesus lived, suffered, and died to save us, so let us live to do His will!
2. **Jesus Gives Physical Sight** – ⁶ When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” So he went away and washed, and came back seeing. Even though healing blindness with clay is foolish, Jesus used it to give the gift of physical sight! Even our use of water, bread, and wine can seem foolish; nevertheless, God uses such means to give great blessings!

3. **His Neighbors are Confused** – ⁸ Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the one.” ¹⁰ So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.” When extraordinary things happen, *we naturally want to know the details*; however, sometimes, *upon finding out the details*, we still do not believe – *just like the neighbors of the blind man!*

4. **The Pharisees are Confused** – ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. [God made it clear in the OT – no working on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:9-11). However, to cut through the man-made traditions of the Pharisees, Jesus said: “*The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.*” (Mark 2:27) In other words, God commanded no work in order to bless us with spiritual, mental, and physical restoration!] ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, “He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶ Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And there was a division among them. Jesus broke the hypocritical laws of the Pharisees, *not the blessed laws of God!* The Pharisees should have stepped back, seen the miracle, glorified God, and trusted in Jesus!

5. **Digging for Answers** – ¹⁷ So they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” And he said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ The Jews then did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind and had received

sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, ¹⁹ and questioned them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind?” Then how does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. ²³ For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” His parents feared the false teachers, *but they should have feared God* – Martin Luther: *Here I stand, I can do no other*; those who are confirmed: *...to remain true to God...even to death!*

6. **Still Digging for Answers** – ²⁴ So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give glory to God; we know that this man [Jesus] is a sinner.” [They said that because they thought Jesus had violated the Sabbath.] ²⁵ He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” [Say what you want, but don’t miss the results – now I see!] ²⁶ So they said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear *it* again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?”

7. **Blind to Important Realities** – ²⁸ They reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [They should have known this Mosaic prophecy: “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.” (Deut. 18:15 NAU) **That prophet is Jesus!**] ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from. [Why not? Because they were spiritually blind!] ³⁰ The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He