



**"A Blind Man's Testimony"  
John 9:1-25 (NRSVUE)  
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***As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.***

***<sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me<sup>[b]</sup> while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent).***

***Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"***

***<sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and***

washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> to be the Messiah<sup>[d]</sup> would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

***<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."***

This is the first Sunday in Lent, and we acknowledge our mortality and our need to repent from our sins. We are invited to accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior and to follow him and his teachings. This means that we should also experience a conversion, a change, a metanoia, when we literally turn our back to sin and our face to God.

Our text comes from the Gospel according to John. John's Gospel is a peculiar and unique gospel. It is not one of the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke that give similar accounts of Jesus's ministry. Synoptic; Syn – Optic. Syn – alike Optic – visual. They look alike. John's gospel contains accounts of Jesus' ministry that are not found in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

I really like the Gospel of John. I like its high Christology and its systematic theological approach to explaining who Jesus is. I like its peculiar way of using words and phrases that have dual meanings; dual themes of the spiritual and the physical; of light and darkness; of life and death; of sight and blindness. John writes to bring the hearer and reader to belief and faith in Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior. Belief and faith in Jesus.

John uses the great "I am" sayings of Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd;" Jesus said, "I am the door to the kingdom;" Jesus said, "I am the truth, the life and the way;" Jesus said, "I am the true vine;" Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life;" Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

This narrative in chapter nine shows us the power and importance of testifying and witnessing to people who do not believe in the sign, wonder and miracle of healing, nor in the divine person and nature of Jesus Christ, because of the sin and dreaded condition of spiritual blindness.

The Pharisees and religious authorities thought they had 20/20 vision, but could not "see" who Jesus was. We live in a world and society where spiritual blindness is pervasive and even promoted. Attempts are made to blind both young and old to the TRUTH and Light of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Gospels. We who TRULY see, have the awesome responsibility to give testimonies of our relationship with Christ, even in the presence of unbelievers, of darkness and of blindness.

This Biblical narrative reveals the power of Jesus to not just restore our physical limitations but restore our connection, relationship and knowledge of the kingdom of heaven and our spiritual nature. Jesus encountered a man who was blind from birth and the Pharisees traditionally equated sickness with sin and asked who sinned, this man or his parents. Jesus said that he was born that way so that God's works might be revealed in him.

Jesus knelt and took the elements of the Earth and took his physical element of saliva and mixed it in the ground and placed it over his eyes. For some of us *that* would have been too much to bear. And then he told him to go down to the pool of Siloam, and wash. For some of us *that* would have been too much, but he had faith and was obedient. Because of his faithfulness; because of his obedience; because of his trust, his sight was restored.

Let this be a lesson for us to have trust. Let us believe and be obedient, even when things seem improbable and impossible. Let this be our testimony and our witness when people remember when we were broken; when we were down; when we were depressed; when we were despondent; when we were in despair; when things seemed lost and hopeless and the Lord delivered us from all of those situations. Let us remember and rejoice when the Lord restored us and gave *us* a new story; a new testimony; and a new witness.

This man's neighbors, in our text, heard that he received his sight, and when they saw him, they still didn't believe that he was actually the same person who was blind. They took him to the Pharisees, who had to declare him healed, and the Pharisees didn't believe in his healing.

There are some people around you that won't believe in *your* healing. Some folk won't believe in *your* deliverance. They will try to downplay and dismiss it, but you have to tell *your* story; give *your* testimony, anyhow.

The Pharisees went to his parents, but they were afraid to confess that Jesus had healed their son because they would not be allowed back into the Temple. Ask our son, he's of age. He can speak for himself. The story is not just about the physical blindness of the young man, but it's also about the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees. They only THOUGHT that they could see.

The young man stood before his examiners, who were trying to discredit Jesus by calling him a sinner. Look at him healing, working on the Sabbath, which is supposed to be a day of rest. The man who was blind stood boldly and stood alone. He stood and witnessed to the goodness of God.

His situation; his condition. I'm talking about a blind man's testimony. His blindness was not due to sin, but to allow God to get the glory out of his life. Whatever your situation is, whatever your condition may be, don't fret, don't give up, but let God use you to help those who can't see and don't see, to receive their sight and to believe in Jesus Christ.

The young man said, You're asking me all of these questions. All I can do is tell you what he's done for me. I can tell you how I was born blind, and Jesus passed by my way. He could not and would not engage in a theological debate about the source and nature of sin. I'm not sure he really cared. He said, "All I know, though I was blind, now I see."

I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing **I** know. This isn't secondhand information; this isn't my mother's testimony; this isn't my father's testimony. This man was saying – this is **my** testimony, **my** story; This is **my** song, praising **my** savior all the day long. One thing I know, though I was blind, NOW I see.

Some of you were walking in darkness, but the Lord opened your eyes and gave you a testimony. Tell it – even to the unbelievers. Tell it – even to the Gospel-haters. Tell the world – that my eyes have been opened so that I can see the goodness and glory of the Lord in the land of the living! Thanks be to God – my eyes have been opened and I can see the light of his countenance. Tell them, I can see his will and purpose for my life. Now I can see the way of the kingdom of heaven.

This is my story, this is my song praising my savior all the day long.

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Let the Church say, "Amen."