

John 9:1-41 ESV

Has God Worked in YOUR Life?

If you said, “Yes,” then fearlessly tell others!

Services: Sunday, 3/26 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 3/27 at 7 PM

Church Year: Fourth Sunday in Lent – 2017

Wednesdays of Lent: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Close your eyes *and keep them closed*; imagine that you must make a choice between *physical sight* and *spiritual sight*; which would YOU choose?

In today’s gospel reading, Jesus will heal *physical blindness* in order to make people aware of *spiritual blindness*; physical is bad, *but only temporal*; spiritual is much worse, *because it is eternal!*

1. **We are Now the Light of the World**: ¹ As [Jesus] 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 was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents [that resulted in his blindness], but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of [God the Father] who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” // Jesus is the “true light, which enlightens everyone” (John 1:9 ESV); He came, taught, suffered, died, rose, and ascended. Now, from us knowing Jesus, *let us reflect His light and God’s truth to others!*
2. **We Testify about God’s Work in our Lives**: ⁶ Having said these things, [Jesus] spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸ The

neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”⁹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”¹⁰ So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.”¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” // So the man permitted the anointing, washed as Jesus had commanded him, and received the ability to see. WOW, *what a change – from blindness to sight!* The man didn’t know much, but he told what he knew; *let us also tell what we know about Jesus and His work in our lives!*

3. **We Keep Telling the Truth to Unbelievers:**¹³ [The neighbors and others] brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” // The Pharisees looked for a way to discredit Jesus, saying, “He healed on a Sabbath!” But others reasoned that Jesus *had to be connected with God*, otherwise, *the man would still be blind!* As the people argued, *the healed-man just kept telling what he knew about Jesus!* Let us avoid speculation; *then let us keep telling others about Jesus!*
4. **We Do Not Fear the Consequences of Truth-Telling:**¹⁸ 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 sight¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who

you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." // The parents of the man feared the religious leaders more than God ☹; what about us, **who or what do we fear?** (Matthew 10:28 "And do not...") We should fear ONLY GOD; *then we can fearlessly tell others about Jesus!*

5. **We Keep Telling About God's Amazing Work:** ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man [*thus, this Jesus*] is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin [*because he was born physically blind*], and would you teach us?" And they cast him out [of the synagogue]. // The leaders followed Moses, **but**

what did Moses say? “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you... it is to him you shall listen” (Deut. 18:15 ESV). *That prophet is Jesus!* Did you catch what the healed-man said about Jesus, “We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.” Note that, up to that point in the history of the world, *no one born blind had ever been healed!* As the healed man kept telling about Jesus, *so let us tell what Jesus has done for us – to save us from our sins!*

6. **We Rejoice in God’s Gift of Spiritual Sight:** ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.” // What does that difficult phrase mean? “...those who do not see may see” – The tax-collectors and sinners knew they were in trouble with God, *thus blind*; Jesus came to give them spiritual sight, *thus life!* “...those who see may become blind” – The Jewish leaders *thought they could see*, so Jesus needed to make them blind; He did that for Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and others!

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Father, we were **all** spiritually blind, but now, *by grace through faith*, we see, we know Jesus, and we are saved! Now, *fill us with the Holy Spirit* and *move us to fearlessly tell others about Jesus’ amazing work for us!* Amen!