

## Faith Gives Us Spiritual Sight

### The Third Sunday in Lent

#### Introduction to Readings

*The difference between walking in faith and walking in unbelief is like the difference between light and darkness. We were born in spiritual darkness, in our blindness unable to guide ourselves on the way to heaven. But Christ has shined his light into our lives, and our faith makes us sighted spiritually. Now we can see clearly the path that we are to follow, and we can be the agents to guide others to the true light that gives life to every man.*

#### Read John 9:1-41

#### Introduction to John 9

*Jesus is, again, in trouble with the Pharisees. By giving sight to the blind man Jesus had broken the Sabbath laws established by the Pharisees on two counts: first, by making mud/clay to put on the man's eyes he was guilty of doing work; second, it was forbidden to practice medicine on the Sabbath (aid could be given to the dying). John records the miracles of Jesus all with this thought or question in mind, "Who is Jesus?" The question put to the blind man is a question we have to answer too: "What do you have to say about Jesus? It was your eyes he opened."*

1. The popular belief in Jesus' day was that any misfortune or trouble was the result of a particular in a person's life. Jesus dismisses their belief. Put Jesus' response in :3 in your own words.
2. The Pharisees tried to lure the man who was formerly blind into a theological debate, pressuring him to declare that Jesus had done wrong by helping him on the Sabbath. How did he neatly skirt the trap in verse 25 (below)? His answer is a good example of effective witnessing. How so?  
*"He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"*  
(John 4:25).
3. What blindness do we need to be wary of, in verses 39-41?
4. The man progresses from seeing Jesus as an ordinary man, to a prophet, to wondering if he is the Messiah, to belief that he is the Messiah. He received spiritual sight too! Think about your faith progression through the years. The work of the Holy Spirit increases our faith. What has the Holy Spirit led you to see even clearer as you've grown in faith?
5. Wouldn't you agree that God uses afflictions and misfortune and struggles, and disappointment as avenues by which God leads us to his Word and helps us to help others - Can you think of an experience that has helped you to understand that better? With the current health crisis, what has God opened your eyes to see and understand better or anew?

### Other Readings for Study<sup>1</sup>

#### Read Isaiah 42:14-21

1. Who is the Servant of the Lord? (See Isaiah 42:19)
2. In what ways was this “servant” blind?
3. What promises does God give regarding these blind servants?

#### Read Ephesians 5:8-14

1. How has our life changed now that we are found in the light?
2. What is our role to be regarding those still in darkness?

### Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for truly and fully taking care of all my greatest needs. You have given me full forgiveness, new life, a conscience at peace, and a sure and certain future with you. You also promise, because of your death and resurrection, you are working out all things for my eternity. Open my eyes today to the infinite blessings which are freely given by your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.wels.net/worship/help/](http://www.wels.net/worship/help/)