



John 9:1-15 New Revised Standard Version

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him 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.” ⁶ 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, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ 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?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ 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.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They 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 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.”

Notes _____



TAKING OFF THE BLINDFOLD

JOHN 9:1-15

“A blind person who sees is better than a seeing person who is blind.” –Persian Proverb

There is so much taking place in this week’s Gospel Lesson. What seems to be another account of Jesus having mercy upon someone in need is complicated by all of the other people in the story. While Jesus provided the blind man with his eyesight, it seems there were others who struggled with a “blindness” of their own. Although their physical sight may have been 20/20, something within hindered them from seeing the man, the miracle, and the mercy of God at work in their midst. Questions related to sin, uncertainty over the man’s identity, and strict Sabbath adherence all functioned to cloud the vision of those involved. They saw without seeing and the one born blind ended up seeing clearer than anyone else. A few years ago, a national campaign was created aimed at preventing terrorist activity and its slogan is, “If you see something, say something.” I do not know about you, but sometimes it is difficult to see. Not just suspicious activity, but people, people who are hurting and have need of good news. What is it that serves to limit our vision of this world and the people we are called to love?

- 1. The disciples were blinded by their assumptions.**
- 2. The neighbors were blinded by their amazement.**
- 3. The Pharisees were blinded by their attitude.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, it is time to take off my blindfold. I need to remove those things which cloud the “eyes of my heart.” Take away my pride, selfishness, and apathy so that I might truly see. Lord, cure the blindness in me. Amen.