

Weekly Theme



W/C 27th March 2017

"Working in the dark"

John 9: 1-41

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. His followers asked him, "Teacher, whose sin caused this man to be born blind—his own sin or his parents' sin?"

Jesus answered, "It is not this man's sin or his parents' sin that made him blind. This man was born blind so that God's power could be shown in him. While it is daytime, we must continue doing the work of the One who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground and made some mud with it and put the mud on the man's eyes. Then he told the man, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam." (Siloam means Sent.) So the man went, washed, and came back seeing.

The neighbours and some people who had earlier seen this man begging said, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

Some said, "He is the one," but others said, "No, he only looks like him."

The man himself said, "I am the man."

They asked, "How did you get your sight?"

He answered, "The man named Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. Then he told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

They asked him, "Where is this man?"

"I don't know," he answered.

Pharisees Question the Healing

Then the people took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. The day Jesus had made mud and healed his eyes was a Sabbath day. So now the Pharisees asked the man, "How did you get your sight?"

He answered, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see."

So some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man does not keep the Sabbath day, so he is not from God."

But others said, "A man who is a sinner can't do miracles like these." So they could not agree with each other.

They asked the man again, "What do you say about him since it was your eyes he opened?"

The man answered, "He is a prophet."

These leaders did not believe that he had been blind and could now see again. So they sent for the man's parents and asked them, "Is this your son who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"

His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But we don't know how he can now see. We don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the elders, who had already decided that anyone who said Jesus was the Christ would be avoided. That is why his parents said, "He is old enough. Ask him."

They asked, "What did he do to you? How did he make you see again?"

He answered, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his followers, too?"

Then they insulted him and said, "You are his follower, but we are followers of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't even know where this man comes from."

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, Jesus found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He asked, "Who is the Son of Man, sir, so that I can believe in him?"

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him. The Son of Man is the one talking with you."

He said, "Lord, I believe!" Then the man worshiped Jesus.

Jesus said, "I came into this world so that the world could be judged. I came so that the blind would see and so that those who see will become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were nearby heard Jesus say this and asked, "Are you saying we are blind, too?"

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin. But since you keep saying you see, your guilt remains."

A man had just sat down at his office desk to begin his working day when a colleague came storming into the office. "You won't believe this," he said. "I was almost killed outside. I had just walked out of the sandwich shop where I buy my egg sandwich every morning. Suddenly a police car came down the road its lights flashing and sirens blaring. A man jumps out of a parked car and begins shooting at the police. I hit the ground and could hear bullets buzzing over my head. I am telling you I am lucky to be alive." After a moment of silence the first man said: "You eat an egg sandwich every morning?"

The point of this story, is that we can become so involved in our own narrow interests that we miss the obvious. This week's Gospel illustrates such narrowness. Jesus has just healed a blind man, allowing others to see God's work shining through. But by doing this he threatened the comfortable ordered life of the Jewish leaders. How could God possibly be working through someone other than them? Their authority was being threatened. They missed the fact that God was indeed working. They were more concerned with the minor part. He was working but not through them. They focused on the "Egg sandwich" instead of the whole story that was taking place. So to discredit Jesus they condemned him for working on the Sabbath. Even though it was the presence of God among them that sight was given to the blind man. It is clear that they are the ones who are really blind and in need of the light of Jesus in their lives.

This week may we be open to the presence of God working among us

God our Father, you cared so much for each one of us that you gave your Son as the Light of the World.

May we not be blind, but help us to see the way that leads to a peaceful conscience and a good life.

Amen.