

Rev. Derek Fairman

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent A

This Sunday, we hear in the Gospel about the man born blind. The initial miracle led to confusion for the authorities but faith for the man who was given his sight. When we listen to the Gospel passage, what enters our minds? Upon whom do we place our focus: the Lord Jesus, the man born blind, or someone else? How do we think that this might apply to us?

An important detail in this passage is that the man was born blind. He probably understood what sight was by listening to others describe what they could see, but he himself had no experience of it. He had never lived in a world of sight. He had only known darkness. So, we want to think about this man experiencing what sight was, once he could see. He had heard about it, but never actually experienced it for himself. No doubt, his amazement was great at being able to see for the first time.

He began to see things he never had before. One of the first things that he understands is that the Lord Jesus gave him his sight. He did not give him *back* his sight, but gave him his sight for the first time. He “sees” the Lord’s kindness extended to him. He “sees” who the Lord Jesus truly was: God Himself who can give sight to those who need it. So, besides receiving his physical sight, because of the Lord’s kindness, he could see spiritually in his mind. He had faith to recognize the Lord Jesus as the one who has saved him.

This man’s eyes were opened and he was able to appreciate what he had missed his whole life. In some sense, he must have known that he was blind. He had his own intuition but also knew he was blind from what others told him. However, it would be a different experience from one who could see at one point, but then could not. In that situation, you would know for sure that you have lost something. In this man’s case, he didn’t know everything that he was missing. There is a difference between someone describing an object versus seeing the object for yourself. The blind man did not truly know what sight was until the Lord gave it to him.

Lest we think that this Gospel is about someone else, we must realize that it is about you and me. There are plenty of things that we miss in our lives, but we are too blind to even notice that they are around. Sometimes we forget to notice people around us, or we are too caught up in our own problems that we ignore the problems of others. Sometimes we are blind, not physically but in the sense that we do not see things or people that are around us. There are ways in which we are too wrapped up in our own little worlds that we cannot observe anything else.

