

John 9

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 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?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

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 sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION:

- **U of M Concert Choir Concert, Wed. April 2, 8:00 p.m.** - See Deb, Mo or Kate for details. Poster on bulletin board.
- **"In their shoes: refugee sponsorship stories in Manitoba", Friday, April 4, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Sam's Place** - What's it like to be a refugee? What's it like to be a sponsor? Join us for an evening of storytelling about refugee sponsorship and a taste of some foods that have become part of Manitoba's cuisine!
- **Jazz@CMU, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Great Hall** - \$5 at door. The evening will feature CMU Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz ensemble Wholly Jazz.
- **MDS Spring Banquet, April 5, 6:00 p.m., Winkler Mennonite Church** - Kevin King, Executive Director of MDS will be speaking. Call 1-866-261-1274 to reserve complimentary tickets.
- **Bells and Whistles with Strings Attached, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Great Hall** - \$5 at door. Evening will feature CMU's Handbells, Flute and Guitar Ensembles.
- **Steinbach Bible College Fundraising Fasba, April 6, 4:00 p.m. at SBC** - Enjoy music by "Ignite", an update by alumni Ben and Christina Kroeker, and a light Faspa meal. Funds raised will support the Summer Ministry Scholarship. Reserve your free ticket at 204-326-6451.
- Dr. Gordon Neufeld public event in Winnipeg: **"Helping Children Flourish", Thursday May 29th**. Early bird tickets \$12.50 till March 31. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/helping-children-flourish-dr-gordon-neufeld-tickets-10633915327>. May 26-28 workshops: **"Working with Stuck Kids"** and **"The Art & Science of Transplanting Children"** <http://neufeldinstitute.com/events/events>

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Office Hours:

Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Worship Bulletin Submission: by Thursday evening 9:00 p.m.

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Worship Service for Sunday March 30, 2014

Lent 4

**Encountering God: What we have witnessed ...
through anointing & receiving new sight?**

Focus statement: We encounter God through anointing. God sent Samuel to anoint David, the unexpected youngest son, with oil, and Jesus anointed the blind man with mud. We witness the surprising ways God's work is revealed, and we respond to God's call for our lives.

Encountering

Welcome

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 23)

Opening Prayer

Congregational Singing HWB 6 Here in this place
STJ 5 Come and be light for our eyes

Confession and Assurance

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Congregational Singing HWB 352 Gentle Shepherd, come

Witnessing

Gospel Reading John 9

Congregational Singing HWB 517 Open my eyes that I may see

Sermon Peter Penner

Congregational Singing HWB 545 Be thou my vision

Offering

Reflections on Service

Announcements

Closing Song STS 16 Peace before us

Benediction (Ephesians 5:8b and 9)

Worship Leader: Leona Penner

Pianist: Esther Nikkel

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- **Aberdeen Food Bank** - Meets next on April 5
- **July 4-6, 2014** - EMC Convention in Winnipeg



Birthdays This Week: Deb Shiedel Lapp March 30
Ann Friesen March 31

LENT AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES:

- April 6 Lent 5
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 17 Maundy Thursday Supper at 6:00 p.m.
- April 18 Good Friday Service
- April 20 Easter Sunday Breakfast at 9:30
Aberdeen Worship at 11:00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sunnie is away this weekend.
- **Adult Sunday School, April 13** - Louis Sawatzky will speak about the Mennonite Benevolent Society's ministry in Ukraine.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray for Hadil Al Azaizi's family** in Turkey where they face an uncertain future, unable to return to Iraq, and unable to remain where they are.
- **For Students on Spring Break** - Pray for a week of rest for our students and for safety for the families travelling.
- **For Nigeria** - Pray for the people of Nigeria where political and religious unrest is resulting in the deaths of many, including innocent school children.
- **For Aberdeen Foodbank** - Pray for the people who come to church to receive food and visit with our volunteers. Pray for those who work to make it happen! Give us a generous spirit when thinking of our neighbors.



Coffee for next week April 6 - Sol and Marvin
Upcoming Coffee for April 13 - John and Kathy

HWB – blue “Hymnal”, STJ – green “Sing the Journey”, STS – purple “Sing the Story”

