

Following Jesus in Good and Bad Times

By Caroline Goulet

A Reflection on Jn 9:1-41 - The Blind Man



As a healthcare professional, when asked to pick a gospel to reflect on during Lent, I was drawn to the *Healing of the Blind Man* story (Jn 9:1-41). This gospel not only refers to a miracle but is a true reflection of the healing work of the mind, heart and hands in action as well as of empowerment, trust and self-realization. Jesus, The Incarnate Word, deliberately made a concoction of spittle and mud (*mind*) to apply (*hands*) on the eyes of a man born blind and looked upon as a sinner for his disability (*heart*) and instructed him to go wash in the “Pool of Siloam” (*empowerment*). The blind man washed his eyes (*trust*) and then could see (*self-realization*).

We know that Jesus could have simply proclaimed the man healed as he had previously done, but, in this story, He did not. He restored the blind man’s sight while demonstrating the healing forces of the mind, heart, and hands at work in synchrony. Highlighted as well are the power of trust and self-realization; the blind man may have chosen not to follow his instructions to go wash but he went, and he regained the ability to see. After having his sight restored, even though his story was challenged by the Pharisees, the man *chose* to believe that He was the Son of God and to worship him.

Jesus said:

“For judgement I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind. If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

In this time of global healthcare crisis and financial uncertainty, it is easy to get lost in the frenzy all around us or be blinded by fear and not see the *LIGHT* at the end of the tunnel. We have to trust that God’s will is carried out through the multitudes of healthcare professionals around the world working tirelessly to care for patients affected by the virus, using their mind, heart, and hands to provide the best care possible and save lives. Scientists are working around the clock to develop a cure and a vaccine. Companies around the globe are developing more test kits, respirators, protective gear. Faculty members are getting ready to teach online, adapting course content, modifying assessment, creating videos to ensure that students will remain on course with their studies. Whole communities have been asked to limit their external activities and stay home to protect themselves and those most vulnerable. And these are only a few examples of those carrying out God’s will every day. “*Lord, I believe*” said the man when Jesus asked him “*Do you believe in the Son of Man?*”

“I can see, and that is why I can be happy, in what you call the dark, but which to me is golden. I can see a God-made world, not a manmade world.”

Helen Keller

I say “*Lord, I believe*” to help me get through each day, and “*Lord, I believe*” in gratitude at night. Jesus, you are the *LIGHT* that I long for and I will continue to follow You in good times and bad.

Praised be The Incarnate Word.