



Sunday, 22nd March 2020

## A Meditation based on John 9:1-41

*If you were blind, you would have no sin. (John 9:41)*

How's your eyesight? What do you see when you look at the world around you? That seems to be the issue in today's Gospel. As the story opens, we meet a man whom everyone assumes is a sinner because he is blind (John 9:2). But by the end of the story, Jesus says that those who claim they can see are really the ones in darkness.

What did these Pharisees claim to see in this man? A sinner - both because he had been blind and because he dared to challenge their authority. And what they saw moved them to berate him and throw him out of the synagogue.

A similar thing happened when they saw Jesus. Because he had performed a healing on the Sabbath, they saw him as another sinner. No one who was righteous would dare break the Law of Moses! Again, what they saw moved them to persecute him all the more.

But what did Jesus see in the blind man? Not a "sinner" to be condemned and expelled, but a child of God in need of healing and salvation. And what he saw moved him to act with mercy.

And what did the blind man see in Jesus? Not a "sinner" who broke the Sabbath, but the Messiah who brings freedom and restoration. And what he saw moved him to bow down in worship.

So let's ask again: how is your eyesight?

Jesus so wants to help us see the world as he does. He wants us to see people not as sinners under God's judgement but as brothers and sisters who are offered the same mercy we have received. He wants us to withhold our own judgment and show kindness instead. Because that's how Jesus sees people. It's how he sees you.

So as you gaze at the crucifix and at the Host at Mass today, let Jesus' loving gaze pierce your heart. Let him heal your blindness so that you can see the world through his eyes.

### Today's other Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Psalm 23:1-6

Ephesians 5:8-14

*Let us Pray...*

*"Jesus, open my eyes! Help me to see as you see."*

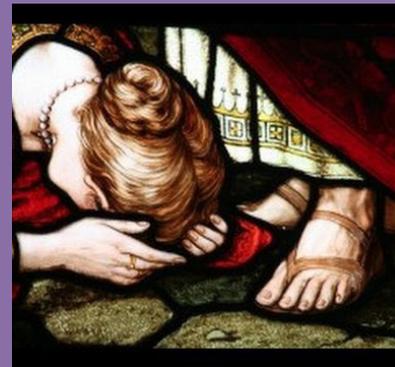
## Family Focus in Lent

- **Lent Frequently Asked Questions**

[click here to read more](#)

- **Make a Lenten Lamb Marshmallow Countdown Calendar**

[click here for instructions](#)



### Lenten Practices for Daily Life:

**Reconciliation** is what God does. We prepare for it by opening ourselves up, by reflecting on the areas of darkness in our lives into which God so deeply desires to shine a light. It might begin with a simple question: Where might God be offering me forgiveness and healing?

If my answer is, "I don't know," then I have some reflecting to do. I can examine my life-what I have done and what I have failed to do-and see what graces are offered me there.

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