

Text: John 9:1-42

Theme: Eyes of Jesus

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Holy Gospel according to Saint John the ninth chapter verses one through forty-one.

Boys and girls, good morning! Do you have good eyes? Are they healthy? Many of you do. Sometime, especially as people get older, their eyes go bad. They need help seeing things. That is why we have eye doctors to help people see. They give people glasses, magnifying glasses, and other helps to help their eyes. Just as our physical eyes need help because they grow weak, so too do our spiritual eyes. Just like the man in today's reading, we are born blind spiritually. We need help to see. We cannot see on our own. The only way we can see is if we see through the eyes of Jesus. How can we see through Jesus' eyes? What does the looking through Jesus' eyes show us about ourselves and Jesus? Ponder those questions as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

1. Our natural condition of blindness

When we look through the eyes of Jesus, we see just how despairing our position truly is. Similar to the man born blind, we can do nothing on our own except sit beside the road and beg for alms. Our sinful nature betrays us and says that that is not all that we can do. It says, "You're not totally

blind. Your vision is just a bit blurry, a bit fuzzy but that's not really true blindness. You just need to work a little bit harder and you will see perfectly! You can do it on your own. Just work a little bit harder. Try not to sin as much and you will be fine.”

Even slightly fuzzy vision is worse than perfect vision. The doctor would still give you glasses to help you out. A small sin is a big deal because our sinful nature is outright lying and deceiving us. We are born, not just partially blind, not just a bit of fuzzy vision, spiritually but fully and completely blind. We can-do no-good thing on our own. As Isaiah writes, our best works are as dirty, filthy blood-soaked rags. By our very nature, we are born sinful and unclean. Why does this happen? Because all of us are conceived in sin as descendants of Adam. It is our natural state to grope around in pure darkness following the desires of our sinful flesh. As our Lord says, this is not because of anything that we ourselves have done, or that our parents have done but that the glory of God may be revealed. It is not as a punishment for some specific sin that we have done. Rather, it is so that God may show His glory found in His mercy and grace. If we are looking to cast blame, we cast it upon Adam and Eve, our first parents for dooming us and all of creation by disobeying the Law of God. Yet it is done, ultimately, that God may show His mercy, grace, and glory in His great compassion for us.

2. Jesus' concern for us

See our Lord's great compassion. He comes upon this man blind from birth. The disciples question why this happens. They think that someone somewhere did a great and serious sin. Either this man's parents did something and their son is unfairly punished with blindness for their transgressions or this man did something in utero to punish himself with blindness. Jesus does not cast blame upon this man or upon his parents. Rather, our Lord makes some mud and tells the man to go to the pool of Siloam which means Sent and wash. The man does so and he is healed, he can see perfectly. The Pharisees then being a long investigation since Jesus did this on the Sabbath. They want to use this miracle in order to trap Jesus and do away with Him. They interrogate this man heavily concerning who healed him and what the man's thoughts are about him. The only thing that they get out of man is the confession that Jesus is not a sinner but a great man.

3. The Divine nature of Jesus

Yet, we know that Jesus is more than just a great man. We know that Jesus is God in the flesh. He must be in order to do these great things for God does not listen to sinners but to the righteous. Jesus is sent to do the word of Him who sent Him. What is that work? To bring sight to the blind and blind those who see. That those who are born blind in sin may have the forgiveness of their sins and their sight restored. How? By the death and resurrection of our Lord.

That He bears your blindness, the punishment of your sins, and takes them to the cross. There, He sheds His holy, innocent, and precious blood for your salvation. Rising again from the dead and ascending to the right hand of the Father, He sends the promised Helper, the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of your heart, breaks your blindness, and gives you perfect sight to see that what Jesus has done, He has done on your behalf to free and redeem you. He gives you faith to see, as the blind man does, Jesus as God in the flesh for you, and so seeing, falling in worship. That you may see through the eyes of Christ, see your blind and sinful condition, see Jesus as your Crucified and Risen Lord and Savior. Seeing all this, to be strengthened to live the life that He has given to you to live. That you do not gratify the desires of your sinful flesh, but spread this wonderous Word that those who are blind may see, those who are lost found, and those who are dead, live again unto life everlasting.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
Amen.