

Grace Lutheran Community, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023: Fourth Sunday

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The sermon text for today is based on the  
Gospel, John Chapter 9, verses 1 to 41.

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As he went 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?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Our text begins today with Jesus and His disciples going along coming across a man who was blind from birth. After trying to establish whose sin it was that caused this blindness Jesus speaks and points to the works of God. This happened Jesus said so that the works of God might be displayed.

This blindness will be changed by the work of God through His son and this work continues in us. Our blindness, sin yes causes blindness but also our own flesh and our desire to only see with human eyes. Then in us there is God’s work that is done in Jesus who suffered and died on the cross at Calvary to restore our sight, forgiving our sins, saving us and offering us life eternal in His name.

Jesus says to His disciples that day and to us today, ‘As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.’

This part of our text was used as part of the prayer of the church from our page 6 service praying that we work while it is day, for night comes when no one can work.

How do we understand this? As we journey with Jesus to the foot of the cross this Lenten season how are we walking?

Jesus is doing the work of the one who sent Him. We participate in this work, notice that Jesus says, 'As long as it is day we must do the works of God, the one who sent Jesus and through Him He sends us to do the work of God in Jesus name while it is day for the night comes, when no one can work.

We are alive sisters and brothers, alive physically although some days many of us struggle with heavy hearts, with clouded heads and with bodies that ache and are weary. But we are made alive in Christ. Are you alive today? Jesus calls you all to do the works of the Father while it is day, or in other words while you are alive. For night is come, death will come and you will no longer be able to do the works of God and neither will you be called to for you will be called home.

We are alive, our sin has been washed away by the blood of Jesus, you are free to follow, without burden or hindrance, but free to follow the light of the, Jesus. As you believe you will see with eyes of faith a new way to live.

So the man born blind is healed by Jesus. Then the fun begins. The questioning, the insults and abuse directed toward this man simply for speaking the truth.

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

He can only speak the truth, I was blind but now I see! Is that what we do in our life? Do we take the opportunity, working in the day we are given to speak the truth? Notice this man who can now see doesn't judge others he

simply speaks the truth. How easy is it for us to speak the truth of what Jesus does in our lives?

So this is our life as a Christian, a follower of Christ. Jesus heals our sight, our spiritual blindness restoring to us a new sight. One of faith - a gift of Jesus Himself to us. He gives us His light or rather He lives in us by His word through His spirit and His light shines in all we do as we follow Him.

Jesus cares, He loves us, forgives us, renews us, guides and keeps us, strengthens us and heals us. Sending us to continue in God's work on this earth walking with us, in us and through us, every step we take, every word we speak and He is with us giving us life here and now and forever simply by believing.

Now with our new sight we like the blind man will be questioned and challenged. We will be mocked, laughed at and judged and feel we have to stand up for the truth. But Jesus gives us the words because of the work He has done and continues to do in us. Through the light of the world Jesus, we have the truth to speak when we are asked.

Like the man born blind we can say, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

He goes on only speaking the truth. "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they, the Pharisees replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

What a text today. Jesus doesn't take up much of this event, rather it is the man who was born blind, the Pharisees and others. Jesus simply heals the man and then checks on him. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,

and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”  
“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”  
Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

As we walk each and every day with Jesus let us not get tired of doing good, of participating in the redemptive work of Jesus. Doing the work we must do while it is day, while the opportunity is present. The night comes on each opportunity we miss and finally the night will come when no one can work.

As we walk with Jesus into the unknown of each day let us take hold of His unseen hand, the hand of the light of the world Jesus and walk boldly with Him. Let us do the work of God.

The work of God Jesus tells us is simply to believe in the one whom the Father has sent.

“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”  
Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Jesus is speaking with you now, today through His word the same word that changed the life of the man born blind, the same word that raised from the dead, the same word that declares you forgiven. The same word Jesus Christ that says you are mine I have called you by name.

With our eyes of faith then we see the good deeds to walk in that have been prepared for us to do as our response to the great love of God and as we are sent into the world we do not go alone but we are going with Jesus our Shepherd. Go and serve in peace.

Amen.