

## ... But now I see

Through the season of Lent we have had an opportunity to consider the life and works of Jesus through the lens of the Gospel according to John. Unlike the other gospels, the Lectionary Readings do not have a year of readings from this gospel.

These weeks have afforded us the gift of walking through the wilderness, witnessing the nocturnal conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Last week, in my opinion, was the absolute best as we witnessed the transformation of the most unlikely candidate to be selected as an evangelist. She left behind her emptiness – the water jar – because she drank Living Water.

Today's gospel begins by offering a glimpse into assumptions. Have you ever found yourself discovering that what you thought was fact was actually an assumption? Have you ever found yourself wondering why you believed something without ever questioning its validity?

In today's story, Jesus is walking along with his disciples and they come upon a blind man – a man that they knew to have been blind from birth. The disciples, like so many of us, assume that what they were seeing is all that there is to see. Jesus, the master teacher, knows that there is much more going on before them than meets the eye. Perhaps we would do well to remember that those of us with the gift of **sight** do not always **see**.

The events that unfold are thought provoking to say the least. *Neither this man nor his parents sinned*, Jesus says. Then, Jesus goes on to say, *I am the light of the world*. He makes mud, puts

it on the man's eyes and tells him to go wash. The text gives no indication that the man asked to be healed. The man is in his rightful place, begging and seemed to have no expectation that the circumstances of his birth could be changed. Had this man also been a victim of assumptions about his status – even wondering if he had “sinned” to cause his own blindness?

The disciples and others see the man's blindness. Jesus, is moved with compassion, moved to meet the need that had not even been spoken – our at least not audibly. Have you ever been aware that you need something – you need something to lift the shame, blame, and guilt that have kept you stuck? Have you ever been aware that you have much more to offer than the circumstances of your life have allowed you to show?

In the gospels Jesus heals many – but this is the only account of sight being given to one born blind. Jesus **sees** this man, this child of God, the one who had never **seen** before.

Jesus **sees** the man. Jesus **sees** us; and, when Jesus **sees** much more is going on than visual perception. Jesus **sees** – in the wilderness, in the questions of a nocturnal visitor, in beholding the heart of a woman at Jacob's well – Jesus **sees**.

So, beloved, it would do us well to remember, in the words of Dr. Joy J. Moore regarding the creation of human beings:

*...from the dirt God donates  
dignity to humanity...*

And I would add, from the dirt God donated sight to a man born blind.

And, for those whose physical sight is dimming or limited in some manner, please remember that the God of the universe **sees** you. God is walking alongside you each and every day. Please remember, as Bishop Susan reminds us in a blessing, God loves you *fiercely*.