

Scripture Reading:
John 9:1-41 (Readers theatre)

I Was Blind

I don't want to say a whole lot because I think this story speaks for itself. The words that stood out for me today were - All I know is "I was blind, and now I can see."

What else matters really? That is all that matters to the man who can now clearly see. He doesn't care where Jesus came from, he doesn't care if its the sabbath, he doesn't care about the rules and regulations of the day. All he knows is "I was blind and now I see." All he knows is that he has just experienced the transforming grace of The Holy.

It seems to me that everybody but Jesus and the unnamed-but-now-sighted man misses the forest for the trees, so to speak, Right from the start this man is judged by the disciples. The fact that this man is blind must mean someone has done something terribly wrong - so who will we blame. We might hear that question as ridiculous but imagine how quick we are to put judgment where we know nothing of the circumstance.

This story is a story of love, mercy and transformation. It's about how Jesus is able to take our messes, our hurts, and our deficiencies, and use the most improbable methods to make us whole again. "The religious leaders and authorities don't believe that such a miracle could have occurred. Who heals a certifiable blind beggar using spit, dirt, and a few words? Why, that's plain crazy and completely out of order. Only the God of Abraham is equipped to heal—not some renegade rabbi claiming to be God's son. Even the man's parents refuse to take a clear stand for fear they'll be put out of the synagogue."¹

"Today, 200 years later, Jesus is still in the business of miracles. He takes us, ordinary sinful, yet named and claimed disciples, and through water, word, bread, and wine equips us to be his people. He takes our humble gifts and multiples our meager offerings in ways that can't be explained rationally."²

But even more than that in moments of darkness he causes us to see. Do you believe that? Do you believe that the transforming grace of God is still alive and well and possible? I do, I wholeheartedly do. If I didn't it would be time for me to pack my bags and go. If we don't

¹ Of Spit, Mud, and Miracles By Sharron R. Blezard, March 27, 2014 Lectionary Reflection for the Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A March 30, 2014

² IBID

believe that God is still alive and well and at the work of transforming lives then it's time to close the doors.

I wonder if you might take a moment with me to think about a time in your life when you knew the presence of God. When you were _____ but now you _____.

Can you recall a time when you knew you were not alone, when you knew God was with you?

Can you fill in the blank Once I was _____ but now I _____.

Are you willing to share that phrase with us? No need to share your story. Just the phrase as a testimony to knowing the transforming presence of The Holy.

God is here and longs to give us sight where we are blind. May we allow The Holy to open our eyes that we may see.

Amen.