

Blindness

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Look

Once in a while, we find ourselves in a situation, a time or a place, where we feel invisible. It's as if no one notices us. We are there, but for some reason it feels like everyone is ignoring us.

1. Describe a time in which you felt like no one noticed you – a time when you felt invisible? What did it feel like?
2. Do you think the people around you were ignoring you on purpose, or was it just circumstance?
3. How did the situation resolve?

Book John 9:1-41

In this passage, Jesus heals a man born blind. Because of his blindness, the man is marginalized and outcast – he doesn't even have a name. Most people just walk by him and ignore his existence. By giving him back his sight, Jesus not only gives him the opportunity to see, but the opportunity to be seen by others.

1. Jesus claims to be the "light of the world." In what ways does Jesus shed light in this passage? What is illuminated because of Jesus' actions?
2. The people believe the man is blind because of his sin or his parents' sins. Whose sins did Jesus expose in this passage? What are those sins?
3. How is the blind man changed because of his encounter with Jesus? What ministry does he begin to do because of his transformation?

Took

People look at the wrong end of a miracle every time. The miracle is not that the man can see. The scandal is not that the Sabbath has been broken. The miracle in one part is the fact that Jesus is the Light of the World that can turn the darkness of blindness and the darkness rejection and persecution of the world into light.

1. Who is invisible to us today?
2. What keeps us from shedding light of Christ on them?
3. How might we work to make them more visible? How might we call them into partnership in ministry with us?

Adapted from this sermon: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2017/01/30/light-lent-4a-march-26-2017>

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