

Kogarah Uniting Church

Sunday 15th March 2026

Lent 4 - To See or Not to See

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country

Since time immemorial, the Indigenous people have been caring for this land. They watched for the seasons, knowing when to harvest and when to plant, knowing when to stay and when to move, knowing how to read the signs of the time. As we gather today, we acknowledge the wisdom of the traditional owners of this land, the Bidjegal People of the Eora nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, and acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded.

Lighting the Christ Candle

God is here!

God is always here!

God is with us!

God is always with us!

Saying who we are

Our vision is to be a loving and caring community, sharing God's love with the world.

We are a congregation who welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles. We are creating a safe place for the community and sharing the journey of life and faith.

Introduction to Theme

This Season of Lent invites us to bring our whole selves into God's presence, where grief and hope are held together. As we continue our Lenten journey, we are challenged to see others and ourselves in new ways as we learn of God's choice for the next leader and consider God's loving care for us. How do we live with an awareness and attentiveness to God, making wise decisions and being open to truth in our relationships?

Call to Worship

As we come to worship you today, O God, you ask how we see ourselves.

The economic world sees us as consumers in constant need.

We see that your encompassing love brings us deep peace.

When we see the gloom on our paths;

you see us and keep us company.

While others may see us as an enemy,

you see us as your guests.

We can see the future only one day at a time;

you see us in the view of the eternal.

As we come to worship you,

help us to see ourselves as you see us.

Sing: *Come and find the quiet centre* (Shirley Murray)

<https://youtu.be/to-6eiVwnlg?si=piCk3FXqSYP-MmBw>

Come and find the quiet centre

in the crowded life we lead,

find the room for hope to enter,

find the frame where we are freed:

clear the chaos and the clutter,

clear our eyes, that we can see

all the things that really matter,

be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,

cools the heat and slows the pace,

God it is who speaks and names us,

knows our being, touches base,

making space within our thinking,

lifting shades to show the sun,

raising courage when we're shrinking,

finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,

open to each other's pain,

let our loves and fears unravel,

celebrate the space we gain:

there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

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Opening Prayer

Holy One, shine your love and wisdom into our lives
as we continue on this Lenten journey.

Help us to follow in the way of Jesus,
who put your loving plan and purpose first in all his decision-making.

We come together in this hour...
in a wider search for truth and purpose.

In this quest, may we
greet one another with open hearts and minds;
inspire each other to consider new questions
and seek deeper meaning;
and cultivate both wisdom and compassion.

Let all who enter this sacred place
find comfort in this community.

Amen.

Sing: • MV126 Are you a shepherd? (Ruth Duck)

<https://youtu.be/DIN3eGRIHDI?si=k00VVIrnqLLV9cQA>

**Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?**

Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.*

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best?

*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.*

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all your children in paths that are right.
Great loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight.

Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,

but you are greater than all that we know.

Holy and living, loving and giving,

God, you are with us wherever we go.

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Prayer of Confession

Holy One, you are here with us, surrounding us and filling us with life and love.

As the sun shows up every detail hidden in shadow,
so your Spirit reveals every part of our lives.

You know what is in our hearts

and we are thankful that we do not have to hide from you.

Often, we do not like what we see in ourselves;

sometimes we think we are doing well but are closed to our
weaknesses;

sometimes we feel like failures and close ourselves off to our God-
given gifts and strengths.

Open our hearts and minds to your grace and forgiving love
toward us and toward each other.

Words of Grace

Wake up from false dreams and unreal nightmares.

God is with you in the depths of night's shadows and in the
brightness of the day.

God's loving presence will keep you company throughout life's journey and beyond.

We place our trust and our hope in God who forgives us our sins,
Amen.

Peace

ENGAGING THE WORD

Readings from the Hebrew Scriptures

1 Samuel 16:1–13

6 1. The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has

the Lord chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

(Psalm 23)

Readings from the Christian Scriptures

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Sing: Lenten listening song. Linnea Good

Listen in the silence,

listen in the noise,

listen for the sound of the Spirit's voice.

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John 9:1-41 (In body of Reflection video)

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2**His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" **3**Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. **4**We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **5**As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." **6**When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, **7**saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

8The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" **9**Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." **10**But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" **11**He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." **12**They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. **14**Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15**Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how

he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from

God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Offering

Loving God, you have given us so much with overflowing generosity. We bring you these gifts willingly, some from our abundance, some conscious of the cost.

Use them to bring faith, hope and love where they are most needed, we pray. Amen.

Sing: *Longing for light we wait in darkness / Christ, be our light* (Bernadette Farrell, England)

<https://youtu.be/kt3Qc04uIOM?si=zhAVK5eyTy0H6O9I>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

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Reflection

<https://youtu.be/oO3V9hdFWno>

I believe the man in John 9 is one of the most misunderstood people in the Bible. Apparently his witness was so powerful, the crowds continued to talk about his story in John 10:21 and 11:37, but we don't even get to know his name. To most of his neighbours and to us today, he is simply "the blind man" or "the formerly blind man." Many preachers use this man's story to talk about "darkness and light" or "ignorance and wisdom," and many Bible publishers add the heading "Spiritual Blindness" to this text, as though the man in this story were a symbolic object instead of a real person.

I know what it's like to live in the shadow of powerful labels like that, because I myself have been totally blind all my life. Some of my earliest memories of going to church include the awkward whispers of neighbours who quietly asked my parents or grandparents if there might be any hope that I would see someday. I wasn't ashamed of being blind, but I did often feel humiliated by the attitudes of people who were whispering about me as though I weren't really there. Many people are so afraid of the dark they simply cannot get past the word "blind" to see a real person beyond the label.

When Jesus and his disciples first encountered the man in John 9, the disciples assumed the man's blindness was some kind of curse or punishment for sin--and unfortunately this belief still exists in some form today--but Jesus clearly rejected this myth in John 9:3, saying, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him." Some preachers interpret this to mean the man was born blind so that Jesus could come along and perform a miracle for all to see, but this interpretation robs the man of his humanity, reducing him to a mere prop in the story. Even the use of the word "healing" to

describe this miracle implies that there was originally something "wrong" or "broken" about this man's blindness, which seems quite the opposite of what Jesus was saying in John 9:3. Although it's true that some people do not enjoy being blind--and I have to admit I myself find it annoying when it prevents me from doing useful things like driving a car--still, Jesus made it clear that blindness does not prevent us from doing God's will.

In ancient times, however, blindness did prevent people from entering most professions, and so the man in John 9 had been forced to spend his life as a beggar, merely surviving instead of living out a real vocation. Jesus changed all that by giving the man not only eyesight but also a sense of mission. After performing a fairly common ancient medical procedure with saliva and mud, Jesus directed the man to wash in the pool of Siloam, which we are told means "sent." From then on, the man was sent to witness to others that Jesus is sent from God.

My Grandma Steele sent me to my own "pool of Siloam," which took the form of the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, a school in the Bronx which provided the best training blind children of the 1950s and '60s could receive. There I became proficient in reading and writing Braille, I received a conservatory-level musical education, and I enjoyed being part of a community where I made many lifelong friendships. Nowadays, most blind kids go to public school and hopefully learn similar skills while being part of a diverse community in their own neighbourhoods. For us, the word "healing" means a lifelong process of living out our vocation despite many of the same prevailing misconceptions the man in John 9 faced. "Healing" happens when we are loved and welcomed, when what we think and say and do matters.

The man in John 9 emerged from the pool of Siloam with a sense of mission and self-worth that stunned his neighbours. They could not

believe he was the same person who used to sit and beg. His encounter with Jesus filled him with new hope that he might live a life of real purpose; but his neighbours were not sure they could accept his story, so they sent him to be examined by the local religious authorities.

The authorities were especially suspicious because Jesus had worked this miracle on a Sabbath day, which they considered a violation of religious law. Some of them said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath," but the man born blind said, "He is a prophet." The man's own parents cowered before these powerful religious leaders, fearing the consequences of questioning the status quo, but the man born blind responded more and more boldly to each question the authorities asked. He claimed his right to connect with the leadership of his community, but they rejected him and his belief in Jesus.

The man in John 9 and I have both endured the scepticism and rejection of people unwilling to trust the leadership skills of a blind person. When I was a child and I began expressing interest in becoming a pastor, people said, "Oh, isn't that nice!"--but when I grew up and tried to make it happen for real, the response was much different: "How are you going to be a pastor if you can't see? How are you going to serve Communion? How are you going to read the texts? How are you going to get to church or out to visit people in the community?" I often joke about the fact that I was rejected for 17 different internships on the same day! But my hero in John 9, and other blind contributors to the world such as Louis Braille, inspired me to push on. For me, the healing love of Jesus came in the form of supportive people along the way who believed in my abilities to work as a parish pastor, to raise a family, to be the person God called me to be.

The people of Gladesboro Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hillsville, Virginia, recognized me as their pastor; and we lived out our Christian vocation together for over 32 years. When I needed to learn how to walk from the parsonage to the church and how to navigate my way around the sanctuary, my older daughter showed me the way. When church documents were not available in Braille, I was able to read them with the help of sighted volunteers and later with computer scanning technology. When I needed rides to visit people in the community, members of the congregation volunteered to drive me since there was no public transportation in our area. Some of my fondest memories are of the conversations we had as we worked together in this way.

The man in John 9 was driven out of his community as punishment for his testimony, and when Jesus heard about this, he sought out the man and welcomed him as one of the many unknown disciples who were spreading the Good News. Once again, Jesus chose a person whom society had rejected. Once again, as Mary proclaimed in Luke 1:52, "[God] has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly." I believe this is what Jesus meant when he said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Jesus took the word "blind," which even in his day was used as a rude epithet in addition to being a literal designation for people without eyesight, and he turned it against the people who were using such labels to degrade their neighbours.

As we approach another Holy Week journey through Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, we are summoned to recognize that in God's kingdom we wear no labels other than our identity as the children of God. As Paul wrote in Galatians 3:28, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female"--and today's story in John 9 also reminds us there

is no "blind" or "sighted," no "disabled" or "normal"--all of God's children are called to live lives of discipleship in various ways.

The story in John 9 isn't about replacement of darkness with light. It's about overcoming our fear of people who are different from us and welcoming them into our faith communities. We need to recognize accessibility and welcome as core practices of our faith so we can follow God's call to invite all people to participate actively in the growth and mission of our churches.

In order for our churches to live out the message of John 9, we need to start paying attention to the perspectives of people we often ignore, including people who wear the label "disability." We need to create an environment where fear of differences is replaced by encouraging all people to share their gifts even when God calls some to lead us in ways that threaten the status quo. We need to stop insisting on arbitrary barriers and labels like "spiritual blindness" and instead begin to see the man in John 9 and all of our neighbours as real people whose witness matters. The world often pushes us to compete or conform, but God calls us to a different way: working together, needing each other, being the body of Christ.

Let us pray: Loving God, you have created us all in your image, giving each of us a unique calling to love and serve you. Open our hearts and minds to listen to the many kinds of people you send our way. Teach us to appreciate the various gifts others bring to us and to our faith communities. Show us how to support one another without being patronizing. Teach us how to belong to the body of Christ, how to lead and be led, how to love and be loved, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Prayers for Others

Loving God, you care for us in the same way as a loving parent cares for a child, and as a shepherd cares for sheep.

We pray for those who are troubled and fearful, living in places of danger,

not knowing where they will find food or shelter, medical help or people to support them.

Help those with power and abundance to find the will and the ways to share what they have and alleviate suffering.

We pray for those needing guidance as they make decisions for themselves and others.

Help them find wisdom and make choices that will bring health and wholeness to our communities.

We pray for those passing through depression and times of shadow, sickness, uncertainty and sadness, or near the end of life's journey.

Help them to trust in your loving presence and find hope when they are tempted to despair.

We pray for those seeking a home in unfriendly, unwelcoming spaces.

Help them find the courage to be true to who they are and to use their skills and abilities with growing confidence.

We pray for ourselves that we will be open to your loving purpose every day of our lives.

Help us to trust in your constant presence and know that we will never be separated from you. Amen

All Eternal Spirit

Source of all that is and ever shall be,

Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven,

May knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples.

And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth, until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion.

May we find the bread that we need for today.

And for the hurts we cause one another may we be forgiven as we forgive them.

In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong;

When life seems overwhelming, help us to endure;

And thus from the yoke of sin deliver us.

May you reign in the power of human love,

Now and forever. *(Tom Hall)*

Song: Be thou my vision O lord of my Heart (Trans. Eleanor Hull from 8th Century Irish)

https://youtu.be/6AdBkEJurR4?si=B5n7SeP2D_Cba2RW

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art -

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,
be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower:
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only the first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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Blessing/Benediction

Continue on the Lenten journey into the week ahead.

Open your heart to the presence of God each day,
in times of quietness, in times of refreshment and in times of trouble,
when the path is gentle and when it leads through valleys of shadow.
Go from here with the blessing of God, Creator, Pain-Bearer and Life-Giver.

We go in peace, amen.

Sing: *One more step along the world I go* Sydney Carter

(All Together Again 200)

<https://youtu.be/5jhAzbdKq6U?si=gLQB5MXvNgdVZkIJ>

**One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with you.**

And it's from the old I travel to the new.

Keep me travelling along with you.

**Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn.**

**All the new things that I see,
you'll be looking at along with me:**

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go,
you'll be telling me the way, I know:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough.
Leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.*

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约翰福音 9

Chinese New Version (Simplified)

治好生来瞎眼的人

9 耶稣走路的时候，看见一个生下来就瞎眼的人。² 他的门徒问他：“拉比，这人生下来就瞎眼，是谁犯了罪？是他呢，还是他的父母呢？”³ 耶稣回答：“不是他犯了罪，也不是他的父母犯了罪，而是要在他身上彰显 神的作为。⁴ 趁着白昼，我们必须作那差我来者的工；黑夜一到，就没有人能作工了。⁵ 我在世上的时候，是世界的光。”⁶ 说了这话，就吐唾沫在地上，用唾沫和了一点泥，把泥抹在瞎子的眼睛上，⁷ 对他说：“你去西罗亚池洗一洗吧。”（西罗亚就是“奉差遣”的意思。）于是他就去了，洗完了，走的时候，就看见了。⁸ 那时，邻居和以前常常见他讨饭的人说：“这不是那一向坐着讨饭的人吗？”⁹ 有的说：“是他。”有的说：“不是他，只是像他。”他自己说：“是我。”¹⁰ 他们就问他：“你的眼睛是怎样开的呢？”¹¹ 他回答：“那名叫耶稣的人和了一点泥，抹在我的眼上，对我说：‘你去西罗亚池洗一洗吧。’我去一洗，就看见了。”¹² 他们说：“那人在哪里？”他说：“我不知道。”

法利赛人查问瞎眼的人

¹³ 他们就把那个从前瞎眼的人带到法利赛人那里。¹⁴ 耶稣和了泥开他眼睛的那一天，正是安息日。¹⁵ 法利赛人又问他是怎样可以看见的。他告诉他们：“耶稣把泥抹在我的眼上，我一洗就看见了。”¹⁶ 有几个法利赛人说：“那个人不是从 神那里来的，因为他不守安息日。”另外有些人说：“一个罪人怎能行这样的神迹呢？”他们就起了纷争。¹⁷ 他们再对瞎子说：“他既然开了你的眼睛，你说他是甚么人？”他说：“他是个先知。”

¹⁸ 犹太人不信他从前是瞎眼，现在才能看见的，于是把他的父母叫来，¹⁹ 问他们：“这是你们所说那生下来就瞎眼的儿子吗？现在他怎么又能看见呢？”²⁰ 他的父母回答：“我们知道他是我们的儿子，生下来就瞎眼；²¹ 现在他是怎样可以看见的，我们不知道；谁开了他的眼睛，我们也不知道。你们问他吧；他已经长大成人，可以替自己讲话了。”²² 他的父母这样说，是因为怕犹太人，原来犹太人已经定好了，不论谁承认耶稣是基督，就要把那人赶出会堂。²³ 因此他的父母说：“他已经长大成人，你们问他吧。”

²⁴ 于是法利赛人第二次把那从前瞎眼的人叫来，对他说：“你应当归荣耀给 神，我们知道这人是个罪人。”²⁵ 那人回答：“他是不是个罪人，我不知道；我只知道一件事，就是我本来是瞎眼的，现在能看见了。”²⁶ 他们就问：“他向你作了甚么呢？他怎样开了你的眼睛呢？”²⁷ 他回答：“我已经告诉你们，但是你们不听；为甚么现在又想听呢？你们也想成为他的门徒吗？”²⁸ 他们就骂他说：“你才是他的门徒，我们是摩西的门徒。²⁹ 我们知道 神曾对摩西说话；只是这个人，我们不知道他从哪里来。”³⁰ 那人对

他们说：“这就奇怪了，他开了我的眼睛，你们竟然不知道他从哪里来。”³¹ 我们知道 神不听罪人的祈求，只听那敬畏 神，遵行他旨意的人。³² 自古以来，没有人听过生下来就是瞎眼的，有人可以开他们的眼睛。³³ 这人若不是从 神那里来的，他就不能作甚么。”³⁴ 他们说：“你的确是在罪中生的，还敢教训我们吗？”就把他赶出去。

³⁵ 耶稣听见他们把他赶出去，后来遇见他的时候，就对他说：“你信人子吗？”³⁶ 他说：“先生，谁是人子，好让我信他呢？”³⁷ 耶稣说：“你已经见过他，现在跟你说话的就是他。”³⁸ 那人说：“主啊，我信。”就向他下拜。³⁹ 耶稣说：“我到这世上来是为了审判，使那看不见的能够看见，能看见的反而成了瞎眼的。”

⁴⁰ 有些和耶稣在一起的法利赛人听了这话，就说：“难道我们也是瞎眼的吗？”⁴¹ 耶稣对他们说：“如果你们是瞎眼的，就没有罪了；但现在你们说‘我们能看见’，所以你们还是有罪的。”

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