

Jesus sees you!

8th Sunday after Trinity

Sermon Text: John 9:1-7



¹As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ²And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The healing our Lord Jesus gives to the blind are the very best healings! This is probably because our eyesight is such a wonderful thing. From the first moment we see the light of the world until our last hour, when we close our eyes, our eyes show us so many wonderful things! After a long life, such pictures stay in our head as memories so that we can display these pictures like a picture book before our closed eyes. Someone who was born blind can't do this.

He remains excluded from the outside world. In the time of Jesus, there was absolutely no hope that a person born blind could ever see again. There was also no hope that he could ever be part of the community. There was only the question of why such a fate fell to this man. And that was what the religious leaders, who brought this issue before Jesus, were concerned with. "Who is to blame?" they wanted to know. These same religious leaders have eyes and all their body parts. They see themselves in the right and in the position to judge guilt and innocence. They even have all the means to know everything necessary about God and to pass it on to others. But they know nothing! They are the ones who are truly blind. They have everything and yet they are indifferent. They have forgotten what is most important and only have eyes for the minor things with which they occupy themselves all day long. They are, so to speak, the instruments of God, but they have not had anything to do with God for a long while. And that is precisely why Jesus came. He came to lead us and this blind man to God. Three things must happen for this blind man

to be healed by Jesus:

The first is that Jesus sees the blind man.

The second is that Jesus personally washes the blind man!

The third is that the blind man washes in the pool of Siloam.

Jesus sees! Yes, Jesus saw all this man's hardships. And He didn't just see them, but he also recognized what they meant. How important it is again today that we let ourselves be convinced that Jesus sees! For the blind man, it wasn't yet clear that Jesus saw him. Above all, he didn't yet know what it could mean that Jesus saw him. In this way, the blind man is like us today. In the many distressing situations, we find ourselves in, we think that God doesn't see or has forgotten us. But that's not true! We just can't see it. We cannot see it because we are blind. But Jesus came to take even this blindness from us. And because Jesus sees us, we can also see! Many among us know very well the feeling of coming from the dark into the light. Many grew up in a world where they rarely, if ever, saw a Bible. Furthermore, the Christ one reads about in the Qur'an is one who does not to bring us to God at all. Quite the opposite, it is considered terrible blasphemy to be in the presence of the Almighty God – and whoever talks about such things could be horribly persecuted or even killed. In general, God is only associated with harsh laws, murder, and death. That's why people can't envision the loving God and Father who revealed Himself through Jesus Christ. They can't see Him! They are like a blind person who perceives something of those with sight but can't quite fit all the pieces together. And then? Yes, and then the Gospel is heard and read. They could attend worship and get to know Christ! Oh, what a wonderful moment when the picture of our Lord Jesus is suddenly clearly painted before our eyes. It is like when the sun suddenly smiles gloriously on us after a dark day! But it's not only people who come from Iran or other Islamic countries who know this path from darkness to light. Every Christian also knows that path. For we are all spiritually blind from birth. You don't need to live in Iran to know that the devil's works are active in our bodies. We can't even see all the things connected to God's light and being. We are born blind. Each of us has had his own personal experiences with this. One was stuck in a sin, and the more he tried to resist the sin, the worse it got. Another couldn't believe in God at all. "How can I believe in a God that I can't see?" was his question. This faith doesn't come naturally to us! Martin Luther explains in the explanation of the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him...

That's why the healing of this person in our story is so wonderful. In a situation that everyone assumed was hopeless, the sun shines into his life. Things he had only heard through his ears now have a shape, light, and brilliance! Simply because Jesus saw this person!

And Jesus didn't just see this person. He goes to him personally and does what is necessary: in this case, smearing spit and the mud into his eyes. "Yuck!" is surely the reaction of many.... Do we really need to hear this story during Corona times, that not only breaks every rule but also is extremely unappetizing? And yet this action of our Lord Jesus is wonderful and corresponds exactly to His will and plan! When God created the world, he took mud and personally shaped man with His hands. And here, Jesus does the same. Jesus shares His own spit with us! In the spit of our Lord Jesus, His complete humanity is clear! Not only his humanity, but His divinity, as well. And exactly this happens again and again. When we come to the Lord's Supper on Sundays, Jesus shares His body and blood with us. We are physically connected to Jesus. And just like the first creation, life is breathed into us.

A third thing must happen to the man born blind: Jesus sends him out. He is told to go to the pool of Siloam and wash his eyes. We hear nothing about his way to the pool. He probably had doubts

or even disbelief. Perhaps he wondered what the sense of all this could be. And yet he went. That is faith. Hearing God's Word and going. Even when it doesn't make any sense.

And then the great miracle happens:

This man had never been able to see and then all at once and quite unexpectedly the eyesight breaks through his darkness and makes everything very bright and crystal clear. What must have been going through his head as he all at once saw water, blue sky, birds, people, and the wonderful temple?

But the greatest miracle is that he was not only healed of his physical blindness but also healed of his spiritual blindness. And this is where this healed man is a shining example for us. We also ask ourselves today, how can the light of faith shine again in our hearts?

The only way is to step into the brightness of Jesus' light to be illuminated by Him. The blind man shows us how this happens. First, he saw what it could mean to stand in the light of Jesus. He got his eyesight back. Then he stood before Jesus a second time. This time, he is gifted with faith. "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Jesus asked him.

... "Lord, I believe" is his first Christian confession... and with this confession, the hands of many generations of Christians reach out. The angels also recognize it and sing with joy. We also belong to these people. We kneel with this blind man before the Lord Jesus. We do so again and again, also here in worship. And then we join hands with the people who also confess all over the world, in Iran, also in Afghanistan, and in many other countries. "In the past, we only knew about a brutal God who excluded and tortured us" they say. But now we may confess "Jesus is God," Jesus died for us on the cross," "Through Him we can live" everyone confesses... "Lord, I believe" and worship Him.... In faith and in the worship of the Lord, everything suddenly becomes clear...then our eyes open and we experience heaven here on earth...

We should simply always keep in mind this healing of the blind man. With the healing of the blind man, Jesus shows that He doesn't want spiritual blindness. He makes His way to us humans and sees us. And then He personally brings light to us by putting His saliva on our eyes. And then He sends us out! At His word we go. Jesus brings light. He does that still today. That's why we are all here today. That is why we also have God's Word in our hands and may receive the body and blood of Jesus. There, amazing things will happen again. Where it was previously dark and unclear, the light of day will suddenly break through. We will again be able to see and have a hope and a future. And the angels will sing. Amen.