

For the ONE - The Unseen ONE

Introduction:

To believe or not to believe, to live in darkness or in light-- these are the intertwined questions Jesus is addressing when he heals the blind man in today's reading. In the preceding chapter, Jesus announced, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In today's reading, Jesus gives us a physical illustration by bringing light to someone who has lived in physical darkness since birth.

As Jesus and his disciples were in the area of the temple in Jerusalem, they encountered a man who was born blind. It would have been common for blind people to sit in this area and go unseen to many passersby as they begged for charity. Jesus saw the blind man, and to the disbelief of those around him, Jesus healed him of his blindness. As the once blind man's neighbors, family, and even the Pharisees interrogated him about his healing and healer, it's revealed to us that light triumphs over darkness both physically in the blind man's eyes and spiritually in his heart. The encounter left the once blind man to say that he didn't know much about Jesus, the man who healed him, but proclaimed, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25b).

This passage reminds me of the song *Amazing Grace* where we sing, "I once was lost, but now I'm found, I was blind, but now I see." Being spiritually lost is often equated with blindness and darkness. Being spiritually found is equated with seeing and light. Jesus healing the blind man illustrates the positive and practical application of Jesus seeking the lost, looking for the one, and bringing new light both experientially and spiritually. By God's grace, Jesus came to seek and save us, to look for the one who may seem unseen, and to call us out of darkness and into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9b).

Read Your Bible

- John 9
- Luke 15:1-7

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. Discuss a time when you felt invisible.
2. What do you think it would mean to live in darkness?
3. Can you think of any other instances in the Bible where light and darkness are used as spiritual metaphors?
4. Describe a time where you may have felt spiritually lost, found, or both.
5. If Jesus is the light, what does it look like to "walk in the light"?
6. How are you using the times where you have seen God work in your life to encourage others to know the love of Christ?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Heavenly Father, Thank You for sending your Son Jesus to be the light of the world. Thank you for continuing to see us and walk with us. Please help us to encourage others to know your love by being an example of your light reaching out for the one who may feel unseen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.