

Rev. Samuel Yengi

Sunday 15th March 2026

Lent 4A

Text: John 9:1–41

Sermon: From Blindness to Sight

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's Gospel tells the powerful story of a man born blind whom Jesus heals. But this story is about much more than physical sight. It is about spiritual sight. It is about how Jesus opens our eyes not just to see the world, but to see God's truth.

When Jesus and his disciples see the blind man, the disciples immediately ask a question:

“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

This question reflects a common belief of that time that suffering must be the result of someone's sin. But Jesus challenges this thinking. He says that the man's blindness is

not about blame. Instead, it becomes an opportunity for God's work to be revealed.

This is an important lesson for us today. Sometimes when people suffer, we try to explain it or assign blame. We ask, *“Why did this happen?”* But Jesus shifts the focus. Instead of looking for someone to blame, he invites us to see how God's grace and power can be revealed even in difficult situations.

Jesus then performs an unusual miracle. He spits on the ground, makes mud with the saliva, puts it on the man's eyes, and tells him to wash in the pool of Siloam. The man obeys, washes, and returns able to see.

Imagine what that moment must have been like for him. For the first time in his life, he could see light, people, colours, and the world around him. His life was completely changed.

But surprisingly, the miracle does not bring joy to everyone. Instead, it creates confusion and conflict.

The neighbours question him. The Pharisees investigate the healing. Some doubt that he was really blind. Others argue because the healing took place on the Sabbath.

Instead of celebrating the miracle, many people focus on rules, doubts, and arguments. They are so concerned about their own ideas that they fail to recognize the work of God standing before them.

And here is the great irony in the story: the man who was physically blind begins to see clearly, while those who claim to see the religious leaders remain spiritually blind.

As the story unfolds, the healed man grows in understanding. At first, he simply calls Jesus “*the man called Jesus.*” Later he says that Jesus is a prophet. And eventually, when he meets Jesus again, he recognizes him as the Son of Man and worships him.

His physical healing leads him into a deeper spiritual awakening.

This journey mirrors our own journey of faith.

Many of us begin our faith with only a partial understanding of who Jesus is. Perhaps we know about him, perhaps we have heard his teachings, but our understanding grows over time.

Lent is a season that invites us to open our eyes more fully to see Christ more clearly and to recognize how he is working in our lives.

But the story also warns us about another kind of blindness. The Pharisees believed they already knew the truth. Because they were so certain of their own understanding, they could not see what God was doing right in front of them.

Spiritual blindness can happen when pride, fear, or rigid thinking closes our hearts to God's new work.

We may attend church regularly, know the Scriptures, and follow traditions but still miss what God is doing if we are not open to the Spirit.

Jesus ends the story with a powerful statement:

“I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”

This means that those who humbly recognize their need for God will receive true sight. But those who believe they already see everything clearly may actually remain blind.

The good news is that Jesus is always ready to open our eyes.

Like the blind man, we are invited to trust Jesus, even when we do not fully understand what he is doing. The man simply obeyed Jesus' instruction to go and wash. Through that simple act of faith, his life was transformed.

During this Lenten season, we are called to do something similar. Lent is a time for reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is a time to ask God to reveal the places where we may still be blind.

Perhaps we are blind to the needs of people around us.

Perhaps we are blind to injustice or suffering in the world.

Perhaps we are blind to the ways God is calling us to grow.

When we bring these things honestly before God, Christ can begin to open our eyes.

And when our eyes are opened, we begin to see the world differently. We see people not as strangers but as neighbours. We see suffering not as something to ignore but as something that calls for compassion. We see God's presence in places we may never have noticed before.

The healed man's story ends with worship. After all the questions, doubts, and challenges, he encounters Jesus again and says, "*Lord, I believe.*" And he worships him.

That is the final step of true sight to recognize Jesus for who he is and respond with faith and worship.

As we continue our journey through Lent, may we ask God to open our eyes. May we have the humility to admit when

we cannot see clearly. And may we have the courage to follow Christ wherever he leads.

Because when Jesus opens our eyes, our lives are never the same again.

Amen.