**“Seeing Is”**

Isaiah 42:1421

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9

Lent 4

Finding the man whose sight He healed, “Jesus said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ The man answered, ‘And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen Him, and it is He who is speaking to you.’ He said, “Lord, I believe,’ and he worshiped Him. Jesus said, ‘For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near Him heard these things, and said to Him, ‘Are we also blind?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.’”

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bridge**

“**The man whose sight He healed**” he’s called. Last week, the object of God’s love in Jesus was, quote, “**a woman from Samaria**”. This week we hear the object of God’s love in Jesus **called only** “**the man whose sight He healed**”. **Most** of John’s chapter 4 was of Jesus’ gift to a foreign woman **un-named**. **All** of John’s chapter 9 (our text this week) is of Jesus’ gift to a man **un-named** but **identified** as blind since birth.

John’s chapter 3 had the account of Jesus teaching a Pharisee **named** Nicodemus. Him we’re told **the name**. The disciples we **have names of**. **Particular people whose situation was unique and played unique roles we know names of**. People representing the masses but getting lots of ink in Holy Scripture yet **remaining un-named** are noted as un-**particular** (**general in circumstance** **identifiable with, really, EVERYONE**).

**Text**

“Blind from birth”. The disciples asked the Lord about him: “Rabbi, **who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind**”. **Cause and effect** they wanted to know. And the Lord Jesus **taught that in this** … to us as well. He taught the cause of struggle and showed the gift of **healing in Him** **… where He’s at and graciously involved**.

There is a cause and effect. God never designed “blindness from birth” into His Garden of Eden. The wages of sin in a fall knowing evil also makes birth defects (and every defect, cancer and multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s Disease and broken bones from falls and the needs for replacement hips and knees and relationship stresses is because of sin’s evil). And we can’t, just, blame Adam and Eve for birth defects and life issues. **We sin** and **contribute to the fallenness of things (our lives and situations included)**. “**Who sinned**” and **caused this** (in the case of this blind man from birth), and Jesus said that (in this case, because you can’t always assess a **direct cause and effect**, but fallen world sinfulness along with our own should make us unsurprised that bad things happen), God makes the best of bad situations where He’s at and graciously working by (as Jesus says here) “using them to display His divine works in the midst of challenges”. “It is not that this man sinned directly causing his blindness from birth, or his parents directly, but **that the works of God might be displayed in him**. **As long as I am in the world,** **I AM the Light of the world**”, Jesus said. By the way, He said to us (before ascending back to Heaven, “Beyold, **I AM** **with you (My people) always**, to the end of the ages” so He is **still near and working the “works of God that might be displayed in us”**. ….

I want to stop long enough for us to **identify the** **PROBLEM**. **Sin causes** blindness and birth defects and cancers and the decay of body parts and challenged relationships. **Sin** **does that** and **did that from the first fall**, but **we** **continue sinning, compounding the PROBLEM of evil results from sin and sinfulness**. I am sometimes shocked by our (or this world’s) **surprise by tragedy**. “**Why** did this happen to me”, or “**why** did anything bad happen to people we know” or (the book title dealing with this) “**Why** do bad things happen to good people”? If you don’t know the answer to that “book title” question, the answer is that **there are no “good people”**. **All are “born blind” REALLY**, and that’s Jesus’ point to Pharisees at the end of this chapter. Some, maybe, can’t **physically** see, but many that (so called) “see” don’t **“see”** much of anything **REALLY**.

So, **what’s to be “seen” but missed by cosmic “blindness”?** Well, **Jesus, for one thing**. As a matter of fact, one is never **born able** to **“see” Jesus**. And Pharisees were never (at least for most all of them by evidence) ever transformed into that **VISION** though they thought they had it. It’s them who killed God’s Son. They instigated it as much as most of the rest of world looked away from it (or didn’t even notice).

**We have that problem these days**. An almost court battle it was back then of nearby evidence to this man’s **being give sight where he’d, before, not had it (by anyone’s testimony)**. There’s this back and forth “calling in of witnesses” (parents telling what they knew, friends and acquaintances doing the same). Interview upon interview, including the man himself, a couple / few times giving the same testimony, was **ignored** … and that for, just, the people immediately around and **somewhat caring**.

Your neighbors (and some family members) wonder **why** you give church some time. They wonder **why** you give God glory for things, and not take full credit yourself on what you accomplish. They wonder (so many do of friends and even family members / spouses often) **why** “your thing is **so much your thing**” (paying homage to God and supporting His Church, listening, studying in Bible Class, getting the kids up and around on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and a service thereafter, waking up in time, getting cleaned up and driving the distance) when, especially Sunday mornings, are handy times for those **living for themselves** to sleep in or take the morning **for ones-self** or, worse yet, convincing yourself that the worship of God is just superstition and not really to be done among other Christians, “what **did Jesus do to you, un-named man? I have told you already, and you would not listen**. **The** **man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight** **… that’s my testimony**” “**Went and washed**”, the man did. **You** are baptized and believe in Jesus … and worship Him. “**You** have seen Him”, Jesus said to this man and to all who have seen Him through testimony that you hear on Sunday mornings. “**You** have **seen Him, the Son of Man, Jesus**, and it is He who is **speaking to you**” (**for us, through His Word of testimony that gives us testimony to speak of**).

**Application**

It is **the** **arrogant / the pharisaic** who think they **see but do not** … who are **REALLY blind as Jesus points out (“guilty” and it “remaining”**. All knowing **the testimony of Him (“seeing” His incarnation, life, death, then resurrection)** / all **having seen it by the testimony of it** have to **reckon with the facts** **/ sin and salvation by God’s Son, Jesus**. For hypocrites who **refuse to reckon savingly for themselves and their kids (for religious Pharisees, therefore religious pagans and idiots, ignoring and blind through the facts are right before them**). For those **complacent and purposefully staying away from the** **evidentiary battle** that’s waged between those **in God’s Word (worshiping)** and those choosing to be **apart from it / ignoring it**, the judgment Jesus announces upon the arrogant (self-satisfied) is “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but **now that you said, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains**.”

From **one mostly blind guy to another gathering group of them**, **I** am blessed (and know it, at least cognitively), that (in spite of natural spiritual blindness) God has shown me my sin to **recognize and confess**. He, Himself, has **had me** **wash** in the “ceremonially-cleansing water of a Siloam pool”. He (God) has **let me see** the Son of Man / my Savior, Jesus, through all the testimony of Him that I have been most-blessed (and know it) to **be in churches and hear to see** … such that **now it can be said of me** that **I have** **VISION** **and** **SIGHT, God given**, but received as an (on my own) “begging blind man” blessed that Jesus walks where I **can be**.

So, **with** a man **named** **by the** **named name** of Simeon who **classified himself the same way**, **I say as I can give evidence to:** “**Lord, let now Your servant, me, depart in heavenly peace, for** **I HAVE SEEN** **the glory of Your redeeming grace:** a **LIGHT to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill**, the **glory of Your people … Your chosen Israel**.” In **Jesus’** name. Amen.