

NEW SIGHT

March 7th, 2005

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Invite persons present to pause for a few moments of silent recollection and to offer any special intentions.)

In this Sunday's gospel, we hear the story of how Jesus gave a man born blind his sight on a sabbath day. This miracle caused a lot of commotion, especially for the Pharisees.

NARRATOR: As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes saying to him,

JESUS: Go, wash in the pool of Siloam

NARRATOR: Then the man who was blind went and washed, and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask

OTHERS: Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?

NARRATOR: They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them,

MAN: He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.

NARRATOR: Some of the Pharisees said,

PHARISEES: This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath."

NARRATOR: But others said,

OTHERES: How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"

NARRATOR: And they were divided. So for a second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

PHARISEES: Give glory to God! We know that this man in a sinner.

MAN: I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

PHARISEES: What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?

MAN: 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?

PHARISEES: You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from

MAN: Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

PHARISEES: You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?

NARRATOR: And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

JESUS: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

MAN: And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.

JESUS: You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

MAN: Lord, I believe.

NARRATOR: And he worshipped him.

LEADER: Jesus, you are the light of the world. With you there is no darkness, only clear sight.

ALL: Open our eyes that we may see you, follow you, and see the world as you do.

LEADER: Jesus through baptism, we are brought to new life in you.

ALL: Increase our faith this Lent so that others, in seeing the way we live, may give glory and praise to God. Amen.