

Sight and insight

Notes on the Bible readings

- When Jesus encountered this blind man, he had an opportunity to help his followers (as well as the man himself) grow in faith. At the time, any kind of disability would have been thought of as resulting from a sin in the family and therefore it brought shame on the man and his relatives. This attitude, as well as his physical limitation, restricted him and stopped him from being the person he was able to be.

- Jesus put mud on the man's eyes. Jesus used the methods of a traditional healer, preferring mud over medicine. After this, he told the man to wash in the pool of Siloam (meaning 'sent') – the name is also symbolic as it signifies Jesus as the one sent by God.

- Once he was healed, suddenly the man could see. For a man who has never seen before, his sight is nothing short of a new creation. As the story unfolds, the man seems to have an increasing strength of faith. He starts by being quite timid and ends up 'knowing' that this was Jesus, someone sent by God.

- The readings today demonstrate that seeing opens us up to light and life, as in Ephesians 5 where the life of faith is associated with the shining light of Christ. If God can help us to physically see when we couldn't before, what other possibilities does he open up for us in the light and life of faith?

Questions for reflection

- ▶ What do you see in this image by a blind artist?
- ▶ How might you/your church respond if Jesus said, 'you can see, but you are not seeing'?
- ▶ What steps might we take to make sure we really are 'seeing'?



A prayer of approach

*As we come before your throne,
take away our blindness, Lord.
Open our eyes that we might truly see you:
our shepherd, our comforter, our redeemer. Amen.*

A prayer for others

*Light of the world,
we pray for those who suffer prejudice because of any kind
of disability – physical, emotional, social or mental: help us to
recognise our prejudices and to treat all people equally.
Open our eyes that we might see.
We pray for all who work for a fairer and more just society,
where all can be free to live, no matter what their circumstances.
Open our eyes that we might see.
We pray for all who walk in darkness, with no light and little
hope: may they know the joy that only you can bring.
Open our eyes that we might see.
Heal those who mourn, suffering loss and sadness;
those who are alone, rejected by family and friends;
those who are outcasts in our society.
Lord, show us how to be instruments of your healing.
Open our eyes that we might see. Amen.*

A personal prayer

*Read Psalm 23 aloud slowly (with quiet reflective music playing,
if you wish). Read it several times, perhaps from different
translations. Make this your prayer for the week, and let your soul
be restored.*

**For reflection and comment linking
this week's Bible reading to the
news, current issues and events,
go to www.rootsontheweb.com
and click on
PostScript.**



Live your faith

Look out for an opportunity to challenge prejudice – especially against people who may be disabled or disadvantaged in our society.