

The Treasure of Sight

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Introduction

I don't think I'd be overstating it to say that sight is a precious gift from God. I know there are people who have either been born blind or lost their sight and have still gotten along quite well in the world, even become very successful in one thing or another. Relying on their other senses, they seem to have compensated very well for the lack of the one. But that is not so with spiritual sight. If one cannot see the truth of Scripture, if one cannot see the Christ of the cross, if one cannot see his sin, he cannot see. Nothing can compensate for his lack of sight. He will flounder around in this life until he dies. Then, he will die eternally. Today, we examine the treasure of sight.

Blindness Is not a Choice

When it comes to spiritual things, people are born blind. *Ephesians 5:8* says: *For at one time you were darkness, but now you are the light of the Lord. The Formula of Concord* says: *The Scriptures flatly call natural man in spiritual and divine things darkness.* It's not that we don't want to see the truth of God, we can't. Original sin has us so messed up, we just can't see.

Unconscious of Sin

Of course, in this state, we are unaware of our own sin and unconscious of God. Things of the Spirit are not even on our radar. This is why the world is so messed up today and why the church many times seems so irrelevant. People are so busy making a life, they are unaware of the Maker of life. Unaware of the trouble they're in, they think have no need of the church.

The Nones

There is even a new kind of blind person out there. They are called the "Nones." These are the people who mark "no church affiliation" on the survey form. They are not agnostics or atheists, they believe in God, but they have made their god in their own image. The Bible is not their basis of authority. Their own perception of life is. For them, justification is not being made right before God by the blood of Christ. It's being proven that they were right. Grace is not God's unmerited favor toward us, but the female co-star of a 1990s TV show about the gay lifestyle. They aren't connected to a church because religion should "make me feel good" and church doesn't.

Persistent Blindness

The problem with this blindness is that our hearts become hard and resistant to the grace of God. we become like the hard-packed soil in the parable in *Matthew 13*. *"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path"* (*Matthew 13:19*). We get so used to walking in our blindness that we don't want to see. There seems to be no hope for us.

Jesus Opens Our Eyes

But just like He did in **John 9**, Jesus does today. He comes into our life and gives us sight. He made the blind man see, then He came to the man as they kicked him out of the temple and gave him spiritual sight. How can He do that?

He Is Siloam

Siloam means “sent.” Augustine said: *Who is the one sent but Christ who frequently asserted, “I do the will of My Father, who sent me”?* So, He Himself is Siloam. The man blind in heart approached, heard, believed, worshiped, washed his face, and saw (**Sermon 136.2**). Christ, the Son of God, who died on the cross for our sins, comes to us and makes Himself known to us. When He reveals Himself to us, He washes our eyes and we can see. We believe and worship Him.

How He Makes Himself Known

How does He make Himself known to us? He has revealed Himself to us in His Word. We can see Him there. When His Word is added to water, we see Him there, as He works faith in our lives in Holy Baptism. When His Word is added to bread and wine, we see Him there, as He forgives our sins and strengthens our faith by His body and blood in Holy Communion. This is the **TREASURE OF SIGHT**.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
