

April 2nd – Saturday

Centering Breath Prayer: O Precious One...help me to see.

Opening Prayer:

Dearest Savior, help me to see the things you want me to see. So often I am blind to the important things you would have me see while seeing clearly the things which are really unimportant for my spiritual health. Light my way; enabling me to see your plans for me. May this day open my eyes to your desires and help me to place them first today. In your wonderful name, I pray. Amen.

Scripture: John 9:35-41

Key Verse: John 9:39: “Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind’” (NRSV).

As we come to the final section of our scripture passage from John I want to tell you about Becky. I first met Becky when I was a freshman and she was a sophomore in college. We stood next to one another in the University Chorus which sang for chapel every Wednesday morning. Why am I telling you about Becky? Becky was born blind. Unlike the blind man in our scripture passage, Becky had many more opportunities to make a life for herself. She would not have to live by begging in the streets. She was also a pioneer, of a sort, because she was the first blind student that University had ever allowed to attend. She proved they had made a good decision by graduating with honors and the whole school stood to honor her at her graduation. But, when I met her she was still fairly new at the school and was still making her way through a difficult situation. We didn't know one another very well at first, but I was the one to lead her into the choir loft each Wednesday. We soon became friends and I learned that she was a Christian who was very serious about her faith. At the end of my freshman year, we both were looking for roommates for the following year and decided to give one another a try. In the next two years I learned a great deal about living with someone who was blind. She couldn't see but she had acute hearing, a wonderful sense of humor and a sure knowledge of spiritual things that could knock your socks off. Her faith was strong and she lived her spiritual life each and every day. How many of us sighted people can see spiritual things as well?

When the former blind beggar was thrown out, Jesus heard about it and came to find him. I find this very interesting because I can't think of any other instance where Jesus actively sought out someone he had healed. When Jesus finds the man, he asks him if he believes in the Son of Man. When the man asks who this is, Jesus states that it is himself. It is in this context, a man born blind who now sees, both physically and spiritually that Jesus makes the statement in our key verse. There are lots of blind people in this world. Some of them are like Becky, physically blind but spiritually sighted. Many more are sighted physically but are spiritually blind. Jesus came to bring sight to the blind. If we are spiritually blind, his healing is available to all. If we are stubborn and refuse to see what God is showing us, we become as spiritually blind as

the Pharisees who overheard the statement Jesus made. Jesus equates this spiritual blindness with sin. Now we know that we are all sinners, but this sin is a deliberate refusal to see what God is doing. If we deliberately refuse to see, we are blind, indeed!

Another word about Becky. Becky grew up in a tradition which believed strongly in faith healing and prophecy. She had received numerous prophecies that she would receive her sight and many had prayed over her in expectation that she would be healed. When she didn't receive her sight she was told that she didn't have enough faith. Now, I know that there are times when people have received miraculous healing in our time. But to tell a little girl she isn't healed because she doesn't have enough faith is a cruel thing to say. Somehow I find this poor theology. She felt that she was not healed in this manner because she wasn't ready to see. For her, who had never had sight, it was a fearful proposition. She believed that when she was ready, she would receive her sight. We have lost touch with one another, so I cannot report on her today. I know that she is in good hands. If she receives her sight in this life or the next, she belongs to the Lord forever and sees God's will in her life very well. We should see so well! So let the light shine as we continue along the journey to the cross and beyond for we were blind but now we see!

Questions for reflection and/or journaling:

1. Are there times when I deliberately refuse to see what God is showing me?
2. What spiritual truths might the Lord be trying to show me today?
3. What sin might I be refusing to see in my life? What do I need to do about it?

Suggestions for action:

1. Phrase for your path: **RECEIVE SPIRITUAL SIGHT.**
2. If you know someone who is blind spend some time with him or her and learn about the ways he or she sees that you do not.
3. Contact your local agency for the blind. See what needs they might have that you could meet.

Closing Prayer:

Precious Lord, thank you for my sight. I don't deserve your kindness but I do need it. As I go through this day, help me to be conscious of all the wonders you let me see both in the physical world and in the spiritual world. Help me to remain alert to what you would show me today along the journey. In your nurturing name, I pray. Amen.