

DAY 8

SEE

John 9.25

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

We all have a desire to see and be seen, whether it's connecting with loved ones, beholding the beauty of our surroundings, or being recognized for the gifts that we offer the world. We want to be sought after, and we want people to enjoy our company. We can feel lost and isolated when we feel unnoticed or ignored. Certainly, during the restrictions of this pandemic, many of us feel the weight of not being able to see or be seen as we usually do, keenly.

Yet, our Christian faith brings clarity to what and how we see. When we invite Jesus into our lives, He brings a correction to the lenses that we see through, and He transforms us. This was certainly true for John Newton, the converted slave owner and hymn writer mentioned in today's selection. He described his own inner transformation with these words: *Was blind, but now I see.* As we truly see the beauty of Jesus, this inner transformation extends to all that is in our sphere of influence: those we interact with and the work that we do.

Our scripture reading for today is from John's account of Jesus healing a man who was born blind. Earlier in chapter 9, Jesus admonishes the disciples that while He was with them and it was daytime, they must do the works of God who sent Him. This work was making people see. It was Jesus who first noticed the blind man and gave him sight. It strikes me that he didn't have to come to Jesus; Jesus came to him. I can't help but think that our participation in the great work includes truly seeing the people around us as God sees them.

God's grace offers us that same sight spiritually. His grace removed the sin that blinded us, so we could experience the miracle of God. Are we hesitant in any way in exercising our new sight, though? To quote Trevor Hudson: *Do our hurried lives make everything and everyone a passing blur?* During this journey of Lent, let us pray that our eyes are touched to become more like the eyes of Jesus. And in seeing with these eyes, that we see people for who they truly are.

Daily Practice

Look out your window today at God's creation. Let your eyes focus on something of beauty. Look at the people you meet today and see in their faces the beauty of their God-given uniqueness. Give thanks throughout the day for the gift of new eyes that Christ gives to us.

The below reflections are written by congregants & staff of CPC. All reflections are following Trevor Hudson's book *Pauses for Lent* and are both heavily influenced and borrowed from his work. Any quotes without attribution should be credited to him.