

John 9:1-41
March 26, 2017

Here is a link to the BibleGateway and the text for today:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+9&version=NRSV>

Short summary of today's message.

Last week we talked about surprises and how we have to be open to God's surprising grace and presence in our world. We talked about those things that often get in our way of being open to the surprise of God and what God is doing in the world.

Today's long text from John is full of so much but clearly there is a common thread running through it. The word see (or some form of it) and the world blind are found 28 times. Additionally there are several instances of eyes being opened; thus, it's pretty easy to see a common theme. Seeing who Jesus is and his will as the sent one of God are what this text is about.

Jesus is the only one who can make us see. Notice, he was walking along. The sent one of God walks along just as we do, with us, and he sees us. Next, he administers the healing but there is one thing I noticed. The healing is not complete until Jesus tells the man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. This very word means sent.

What does that mean to us? We often think of the church as the building; however, it is the people but I wonder how many people think the church is just a place to go and worship. There is no doubt worship is a vital part of church. It is where the sent one meets us. It is where we are nourished, fed, strengthen and meet Christ in one another. But we are also sent. Sent into the world. It's why the acolytes light the candles at the end of service and carry that light out. The light of Christ is going with us as we are sent.

Perhaps, seeing Jesus fully can only happen when we are sent into the world. Because we also find him in the world. He meets us in the world. Our eyes are opened up to what he is doing in the world. He uses us in the world to bear that light. To further open our eyes to see the fullness of who he is and the amazing love he has for us and all people.