

## The Light of the World (A)

**Intro.** Our eyes are incredible things. When they are young, they can see far away objects like stars and objects very close like words in a book. They come in many beautiful colors. Our eyes adjust automatically to let in *just the right amount* of light for us to see clearly. To protect our eyes in bright sun we wear sunglasses. But inside, they are not very helpful. Some things can blind us, permanently or temporarily. Looking at bright shiny objects like the sun too long can destroy our sight. *So please do not stare at the sun.* Turning on a light in a dark room blinds us for a few moments but our sight comes back. If we go from the light of a sunny day to a dark room, we can't see anything at first. Then our eyes adjust to the darkness and we can "see"

shadowy objects. The man born blind had never seen light, only darkness.

**I.** He lived in darkness but he adjusted to it. He learned how to get around his home and his town. He learned the way to the synagogue and the market. He learned how to make a living, even if it was begging for charity on the street. Hopefully he had a family who helped take care of him. This was the man the Lord and the disciples walked past that day. Their question was a good one: what caused this? They had little understanding of disease (sickness?). To explain it the culture said it was sin - his or someone in his family - that caused the punishment. Today there are people – and even religious people – who still believe that. The Lord said clearly it was **not** because of something the man or his family did. Once healed, the man told the story of his cure to

anyone who asked. Many thought he was a liar, including some of the religious leaders who should have rejoiced. Instead, they tried to deny it. In the end, the man born blind taught the others how to see.

**Concl.** Some creatures live in darkness all the time. Small shrimp that live in caves or at the bottom of the ocean developed ways to “see” their food and move around in total darkness. We are not naturally people of the darkness, but sometimes we can be. Staring at *dark* things takes away our vision. Sin like anger, prejudice, injustice, greed or despair can blind us and keep us locked in darkness.

Unfortunately, we can even like it there sometimes. After a while we can't see the difference between the darkness and the light. Some of the Pharisees thought they could see. In fact they had lost the true light: the Messiah, Jesus Christ. They refused to

open their eyes and preferred the darkness to light. The only one in the gospel who could see clearly was the man born blind. He rejoiced to be able to see the Lord face to face. We are people of the light. Having a light like the Lord can help us to see and avoid the darkness. It is more difficult for darkness to overcome the light of Jesus Christ in us. That is why we are people of light.

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Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A