

A sermon

By Rev Paul Robertson

22nd March 2020

To all God's beloved in Lambton, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (See Roman's 1:7).

We are living in exceptional times. Is God challenging us to slow down, and take time to reflect?

As our meeting with one another is now restricted, maybe we have an opportunity to be still and more open to God's leading.

We have:

More time to pray.

More time to read our bibles.

More time to reflect.

Today, in John 9:1-41, we meet a man born blind who receives his sight. Please read this part of John's Gospel in your New Testament.

A man moves from darkness to light, from blindness to sight; to profound insight.

Not only does he receive his physical sight, he receives an even greater gift:

the gift of faith;

the gift of spiritual insight;

He recognises Jesus as Lord. He says, "Lord, I believe." John then tells us, "And he worshipped him." (V38) He became a follower of Jesus.

A Christian is someone who recognises Jesus as Lord, and worships him. This man's amazing journey is in contrast to those described by Jesus, who see but "become blind." (V39) "The truly blind are not those who cannot see, but those who will not see." (W.J. Dumbrill)

As we walk together on this extraordinary journey, turn to the previous chapter, John 8:12. Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The writer John is preparing his readers for the account of a man born blind who receives his sight.

If we are experiencing moments of darkness, even a sense of blindness, stumbling along, be open to God's leading. Allow Jesus, the Lord we worship, to bring healing, sight, and spiritual insight.

Confronted by those who questioned and tormented him, the man healed of his blindness, does not waver. He stands his ground. He declares: "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." (V25)

When we are called on to confront darkness in its many forms: uncertainty, anxiety, mixed messages, panic, illness, pandemic, be encouraged. Stay in the light, the light of Christ, who is "the light of the world."

Hold on to him. He is holding on to us. Stay in touch with our brother and sister Christians at Lambton, and beyond. Reach out as best we are able to those frightened by darkness and fear. Give mutual encouragement to family, friends, neighbours, strangers. Yes, use the phone, social media: emails, Facebook. "One thing" we "know," our Lord Jesus Christ is with us, and among us, indwelling us, giving us insight.

Be open to receive him.

"Now to God who is able to strengthen you.....to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen." (Roman's 16:25,27)

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Locum at Lambton