

THE LORD HEALS A BLIND MAN

Based on a family talk by the Rev. Hugo Lj. Odhner

Lesson: John 9:1-7

Once, when the Lord was in Jerusalem, he saw a poor beggar who had been blind from his birth. The Lord's disciples wanted to know why a man could be born blind. They thought that it must be a punishment for something that the man's parents had done wrong. Surely, they thought, the man himself could not have done anything wrong before he was even born!

But the Lord showed them that sometimes bad things happen to people, not as a punishment, but accidentally. This man was no worse than others, nor were his parents. Yet, the Lord would never permit even accidents to happen, unless He could somehow make good come out of the bad thing.

And so the Lord said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). Then the Lord spat on the ground and made clay. He put the clay on the eyes of the blind man and told him to go and wash in the nearby pool of Siloam. The man did as the Lord told him and was cured. The Word says he "came back seeing" (John 9:7).

Imagine what a difficult thing it must be to be blind. You would have to feel your way around, maybe bumping into things or always needing someone to lead you. You wouldn't be able to see the beautiful flowers or the light of the sun or the faces of people you love. Imagine how wonderful it would be if you had lived all your life in darkness to suddenly be able to see!

Did you know that in a way all of us are born blind? This is because there are different kinds of blindness. People who know nothing about the Lord and about heaven are meant in the Word where it speaks of those who are born blind. Everyone on earth is born blind because when we are born we do not know anything about the Lord or about the spiritual world. We can see the outsides of things with our earthly eyes but we are blind to inner things, which we call "invisible".

In order to be able to see these interior, invisible things we have to learn about them. The more you know, the more you see. As long as you are ignorant, you are also blind. But the more you come to understand, the clearer you see—not only the outside of things, but the inside too. As we learn about the Lord, in way we can see Him with our minds and hearts. Our spiritual eyes are opened gradually to see what is right, what the Lord wants us to do. That is what is meant by being wise.

Only the Lord can give us this wonderful sight. Only He can open our eyes to see the wonders of the spiritual world. Then we will be able to do as the man born blind did: bow down before the Lord and worship Him (John 9:38).

Amen.