**Grace That Heals Our Blindness John 9:1-25(CEB)**

Have you ever felt misunderstood, misrepresented, or misjudged? If so, you’ve likely done the same to others. Our perspectives are often shaped by limited experiences, leading to misconceptions. We all tend to generalize based on our limited experiences. We assume things about people before truly knowing them. We jump to conclusions and quickly judge others without seeing the whole picture.

**The Parable of the Blind Men and the Elephant** A group of blind men, who have never encountered an elephant before, try to understand what it is like by touch. But each man touches only one part—one feels the side, another the tusk, another the tail. Then they begin describing the elephant, but their answers are all different! "It’s like a wall!” "No, it’s like a spear!" "You’re both wrong! It’s like a rope!” Each man is partially right, but none of them see the full truth. In some versions of the story, they even start arguing—accusing each other of being wrong or dishonest.The parable teaches us a powerful truth: we often mistake our limited experiences for absolute truth while disregarding others' perspectives. Though we have sight, we are partially blind because we don’t see the whole picture. Even when we know our understanding is not perfect, we still judge others based on our limited view.

**The Story of a Blind Man’s Healing:** In today’s scripture, we meet a man who was born blind. Jesus touched him and gave him sight. This reminds us that we also need Jesus to touch and heal us—opening our spiritual eyes so we can see others the way He does. Jesus was in the Temple teaching when the religious leaders got so angry that they picked up stones to kill Him. But Jesus slipped away through the crowd. As He left the Temple, He saw a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus stopped and healed him. Jesus used mud and saliva to heal the blind man. These elements had important cultural, historical, and spiritual meaning. In the ancient world, saliva was believed to have healing power and was sometimes used in simple medicine. By using spit and mud, Jesus performed an act that people at that time would recognize as a way of healing.

But His actions had a deeper meaning. When He mixed mud with His saliva and put it on the man’s eyes, He was reminding people of how God created humans from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). This showed that Jesus, as the Creator, was giving the man new sight—not just in his eyes but in his heart. Jesus also did this miracle on the Sabbath, knowing that the Pharisees believed that mixing substances like mud was breaking Sabbath laws. By doing this, He showed that God’s mercy is more important than human rules, and He exposed the spiritual blindness of the religious leaders, while the blind man received both physical and spiritual sight.

After putting mud on the man’s eyes, Jesus sent him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. This pool was an important water source in Jerusalem, built by King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:20) to bring water from the spring through an underground tunnel to the Pool of Siloam. This was one of Hezekiah’s greatest projects in Jerusalem, ensuring the city had a safe water supply in case of an Assyrian attack. It was also used for ritual washing, where people cle aned themselves before going into the temple. The name “Siloam” means “Sent”, which is connected to Jesus, who was sent by God to bring healing and salvation. By sending the man there, Jesus was making a strong spiritual point— Jesus, the true “Sent One,” who truly cleanses and heals. This man was not just healed physically—his entire life was transformed.

The disciples saw the blind man and immediately asked: “Who sinned—this man or his parents?” In ancient Jewish tradition, sickness was often seen as punishment for sin. Some believed that children suffered because of their parents’ sins (Exodus 20:5). Others thought a baby could sin before birth. The disciples weren’t even interested in helping the man—they just wanted to explain his condition. But Jesus saw him differently. He didn’t see a theological debate—He saw a man in pain. A man who needed healing. A man who needed hope and new life. And Jesus answered their question in a completely new way: **“Neither this man nor his parents sinned.”**

**The Problem with Our Assumptions:** Too often, we try to explain suffering instead of responding to it with compassion. We ask questions like: Why did this happen? Is it their fault or someone else’s? But does this kind of thinking really help us love others better? Does it help us understand God’s love? Instead of debating why suffering exists, Jesus steps in and brings healing. He shifts the focus from blame to grace, from guilt to restoration. In verse 8, after the man is healed, his neighbors ask: “***Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” (V. 8)*** Even though they saw him every day, they never really knew him. They had only seen his condition—not the person he was.And when he stood before them saying, “I am the man,” they couldn’t believe it. Their own doubts and assumptions clouded their ability to see what God had done.Later, when people still argued about whether Jesus was a sinner or not, the healed man gave the simplest, most powerful testimony**:“I don’t know about all that. But one thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see.” (John 9:25)**That’s the power of encountering Jesus. It doesn’t always come with all the answers. But it does change lives.

**Spiritual Blindness vs. Spiritual Light:** This passage isn’t just about physical healing—it’s about spiritual blindness.John doesn’t write about a perfect world without suffering. Instead, he shows us Jesus—the Light of the World—entering our darkness.Jesus tells the crowd in verse 41 that true blindness isn’t just about the eyes—it’s about hearts that refuse to see.

Scripture calls us “children of light” because we belong to the One who is pure light—a light that no darkness can overcome. But at the same time, we are all spiritually blind in some way. We carry hurts, biases, and fears that cloud our vision. We struggle to see the world as God sees it.

In this season of Lent—a time of repentance and reflection—we must become aware of the limitations of our seeing and confess our own blindness. We invite the Holy Spirit to illumine our eyes, so that we may see people as Jesus sees them—and see ourselves through His grace.

Let us reflect on this question: What do you see when you look at others?

* Do you see their sins, or do you see their humanity and their heart?
* Do you judge them by the clothes they wear, the words they speak, the mistakes they’ve made, or the life they live?
* Do you find yourself condemning them with your limited perception, or do you look at them with compassion?

When Jesus looked at people, He didn’t see their flaws first—He saw a person in pain, broken, and ashamed. He saw someone who needed grace, not judgment.

Our vision is clouded by our prejudices, past hurts, and limited understanding. We need the light of the Holy Spirit to illumine our eyes. Only through the Spirit’s illumination can we recognize our spiritual blindness and begin to see people with spiritual light—to see them as Christ sees them.

When we begin to see as God sees, our hearts are transformed. We reject selfishness and exclusion. We embrace love and compassion. We recognize that we are all children of light, created by the One who is light. And the same is true for you—Jesus sees you with love and compassion. Jesus sees you as a beloved child of God. God does not value us for what we look like—He sees into our hearts and Jesus sees your broken heart. So, bring your pain, your vulnerability, your anxiety, your hurt, and your guilt before God.

You will be healed. You will be restored. You will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share God’s goodness and love wherever you go. And together, we can boldly confess: “By God's grace, I was once blind, but now I see.”

With the light of Jesus, our eyes are opened. And now, we see Jesus, who looks at us with love and compassion. We see others as He sees them. And this, I know. Amen.