

The Sunday of the Blind Man

John 9:1-38

And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When He had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. Then said they unto him, Where is He? He said, I know not. They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This Man is not of God, because He keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of Him, that He hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that He was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this Man is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether He be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. Then said they to him again, What did He to thee? how opened He thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be His disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art His disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence He is. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence He is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this Man were not of God, He could do nothing. They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen Him, and it is He that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped Him.

(KJV)

Hristos Voskrese! Christ is Risen!

The Sunday of the Blind Man

The man born blind in the current Gospel said he believed Jesus Christ was the Son of God. The man born blind received his sight from Jesus. He knew from personal experience Jesus could perform miracles.

Believers from every century experience miracles through believing in Jesus Christ. Experience is the proof of belief. People of serious faith know from personal experience the wisdom of believing in Jesus Christ.

Faith in Jesus Christ is completely voluntary and is normally expressed at Baptism. Believers profess belief in Jesus as King and as God at Holy Baptism. Living the life of faith during the days of life verifies the wisdom of belief.

Life is a miracle. Each day of life is a miracle. The creation and working of the human body are miracles. God's Holy Church puts life in context and gives order to life. The Church provides the narrow path to eternal life in Jesus Christ.

The Church proclaims the Gospel account of the man born blind during this period of Resurrection joy. The Gospel assures believers that Jesus is the Son of God. No one is forced to believe in Jesus Christ. No one is forced to follow Christ.

Believers choosing to follow Jesus Christ according to the teachings of the Church have the wisdom of their faith verified. The man born blind learned through personal experience the power of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ gave sight to the man born blind. Believers seriously following Jesus Christ verify and experience Jesus Christ's presence in daily life. Doubters and opponents of Jesus Christ exist in the world.

The proof of the value of believing in Jesus Christ is in the actual living the life in Christ. The man born blind realized the healing power of Christ. Christian martyrs witness through the centuries to the life-giving power of Jesus Christ.

Saints of the Church personally attest to the wisdom of following Jesus Christ. Each person of each generation decides whether to believe and follow Jesus Christ. The man born blind faced skepticism about Jesus. He held firm to his experience.

The time of life is limited in earthly terms. Individuals choose how to use the time of life. The man born blind and having experienced his sight confessed Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Each person hearing the present Gospel decides whether to embrace and follow Jesus as the Son of God. Each person's experience is determined by the extent Jesus Christ fills the heart, mind and soul and daily actions in life.

Serious believers heed the words written centuries ago in the book of Joshua and abide by them. In Joshua these words are written: "as for me and my **house**, we **will serve** the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!