

Year A, Week 12 (February 24, 2008)

John 9: 1-38 Blind Man Sees, is interviewed by Pharisees, believes in Jesus

Hymn Suggestion: *Open the Eyes of my Heart* (first part)

Figures Needed:

- Jesus (figure with arms extended)
- 2-3 disciples
- Blind man
- 2-3 Pharisee figures
- Male and female figure for parents
- blue felt for a pool of water (check to be sure this is there)

Story:

One day, Jesus and the disciples saw a blind man who had been blind ever since he was born. (*Set down Jesus, disciples, near blind man.*)

The disciples asked, “Why is this man blind? Is it because he sinned, or because his parents sinned?” At that time, people thought that if something bad happened to you, it was because you had sinned or done something bad.

Jesus said, “It’s nobody’s fault. I will use his blindness to show God’s glory.”

Jesus spat on the ground to make mud and he spread the mud on the blind man’s eyes. He told the man to go wash his eyes in a nearby pool of water. (*Move blind man to pool of water.*)

When the man washed his eyes, he could see! (*Remove Jesus and disciples.*)

Everyone who knew him whispered, “Isn’t this the blind man?” “Didn’t he used to beg here?” Some said, “No, it’s not the same man.”

But the blind man who could see heard them and said, “Yes, I am the same man! The man called Jesus told me to wash my eyes, and now I can see!”

Then the religious leaders – the Pharisees – came to the man to ask him questions. (*Add Pharisees.*) They were suspicious of Jesus and wanted to know more. They asked the man all sorts of questions. Some of the Pharisees criticized Jesus, saying that Jesus shouldn’t have healed the blind man on the Sabbath. After all, nobody was supposed to work on the Sabbath! Other Pharisees thought that Jesus must not be a sinner if he could heal people like that. Some of the Pharisees really didn’t believe that the man was ever blind.

So the Pharisees talked to the man’s parents, too. (*Add parents.*) But the parents were afraid to talk to the Pharisees about Jesus. They were afraid they might get kicked out of their synagogue because that’s what happened to people who believed that Jesus was the

Messiah, or chosen one. So the parents told the Pharisees to talk to their son. (*Remove parents.*)

The Pharisees talked to the man again. They said, "Tell the truth! This Jesus is a sinner!"

The man said, "I don't know if he's a sinner. All I know is, I once was blind, but now I see."

They said, "Tell us what Jesus did to you."

The man said, "I already told you all this before! Why do you want to hear all this again! You must want to become disciples of Jesus!"

They said, "No way! You may follow Jesus, but we follow Moses. We know that God spoke through Moses, but we don't know about this Jesus person."

The man said, "What's there to know? Could any sinful man heal me of blindness? If God were not with Jesus, he could do nothing."

The Pharisees told him, "Are you trying to teach us about God? Listen, we're the teachers around here. You're just the man who was born blind, born in sin!" And they sent the man away. (*Remove Pharisees.*)

But later Jesus found the man. (*Add Jesus.*) Jesus asked the man, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

The man said, "Who is he, sir? I'd like to believe in him!"

Jesus told him, "You have seen him, and you are talking with him."

The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus.

Jesus told him, "I have come to bring sight to the blind, and I have come to bring blindness to those people who think they see clearly."

Questions (with no response)

I wonder ... what it would be like to be blind and then see?

I wonder ... if the Pharisees were scared that Jesus could even heal blind people?

I wonder ... if the people who didn't believe in Jesus were blind?

I wonder ... if we are blind in some way ... if we don't see Jesus clearly ... or if we don't see ourselves clearly.