

## **Lent Day 18**

Tuesday March 6, 2018

### **Reading:** John 9:35-41

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

### **Reflection**

If you think about it, everything has pros and cons attached to it. For example, wouldn't it be great to have whatever we want to eat whenever we want it? The pros would be that we don't struggle with hunger. Our kids would have the energy they need to work and play. But, there would be cons as well. We would see obesity, malnutrition and cavities. Well, the same is true with education. We live in an educated society — and that's good. But, it can have some cons as well. We can quickly become arrogant, believing our own educated opinion is the right one.

In part, this is what's happening with the Pharisees. This is a group who have made it their life goal to study Torah, the Law of God. And, they didn't just study Torah, they also studied masters of the Torah to help them understand the Torah. As well, they engaged in educated debate regularly. This was a group who had one desire: to know the will of God. So, when Jesus begins to speak on the theme of giving sight to the blind and removing sight from the seeing they catch on he may be making a reference to them. See, Torah was the light of God for humanity and they were the light bearers, it was their job to enable people to see by the light of Torah.

Remember back to the beginning of John's gospel, there John describes Jesus as the Word of God and the Light that comes from heaven. Thus it is Jesus's job to enable people to see and he does so (symbolically) by giving sight to the blind. However, with the same event there are those who cannot see; sadly and ironically, it is the Pharisees.

But remember, we're educated too. How many Bibles do you own? How many sermons have you listened to in your lifetime? How many conversations have you had with people about God? We are educated people which means that we are at risk of becoming blind as God acts. If we claim to be people who see (by our own light) then we will more likely disdain the light of Christ. The most educated thing we can do is to see our own ignorance and rely on the light of Christ alone — only then will our sin be removed with our blindness.

### **Prayer**

Giver of sight, open the eyes of our heart so we may see by your light. Let us not lean on our own understanding, but rely on you instead. Humble us so we may see your glory. Amen.