

Week of April 22-28

20/20 BLINDNESS

Scripture Reading: Read John chapter 9

This past week, my wife ended up in the emergency room. I'll let her share the story. "OK--maybe stranger things have happened, but not to me: I was 'home sick' from work today because last night I was in the ER. 'Why?' you ask. At approximately 7:45 PM last night I was out in our back/side yard picking up water bottles that our little dog had brought out to play with and went into the higher brush to get some more. I leaned over to get "just one more" and was POKED IN THE EYE by a skewer-width length of straw/brush stuck in the ground. I dropped all the bottles and stumbled to the house in excruciating pain in my closed left, watering eye, feebly crying 'help!' to my children in the house. I came in and said, "guys, I'm hurt--can't open my eye--poked by brush." Jonathan, our son, wisely said "flush it out with water" which I did. I stumbled to the couch with an icepack on it. Ray had me call the on-call doctor, who happened to be my doc, who told me if it still hurts/feels like there is something in it to go to the ER--which we finally did by 9:30 PM. After the doctor (who didn't always know where his 'scope' was but managed to keep me entertained telling me stories) put drops in my eyes, we saw the two green dots at 12:00 & 7:00 o'clock on my eye indicating 'corneal abrasions.' I was given medicine and eye wash and sent home and have been recovering every since."

In today's chapter reading, we read about folks with impaired vision. The first was a man physically blind from birth. Jesus, as the light of the world, comes on the scene and restores his sight. The One through whom all things were created (John 1:4) restores life to the rods and cones, the optic nerves, and all that is associated with the eyes and recreates sight.

It should have been a time of rejoicing except Jesus chose to heal him on the Sabbath Day. This, as one might expect, did not go over well with the religious authorities. Long story short, they kicked the guy out of the synagogue because he dared to challenge their authority and perception of Jesus. When Jesus found him, he revealed himself to him as the Savior. The formerly blind man, now with 20/20 physical vision, is given 20/20 spiritual vision as well, and bows in worship of Jesus.

Following this, Jesus declares that he came into the world so that, "*the blind will see and those who see will become blind.*" Here, Jesus is using a play on words to refer to the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees and teachers of the law. Even though they had 20/20 physical vision, they were blind spiritually. They couldn't see that Jesus was the Messiah. As a result, they couldn't come to Jesus and have their impaired spiritual sight restored.

I thank God that my wife's eye injury will heal and that her physical sight was not permanently impaired. Unfortunately, the prognosis for people with 20/20 spiritual blindness is not as good. If they refuse to seek the Great Physician, they will never have their sight restored. They will miss out on seeing the light of the world.

Action Step & Prayer Focus: If you don't know Jesus, I plead with you to turn to him today. Don't stumble in the darkness when you can be saved by the light of the world.

Take-away: *When you don't know Jesus, you can be blind even with 20/20 vision.*