



# Sunday of the Blind Man

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It was the Sabbath, and Jesus and His disciples were walking along. They came upon a man who had been blind since birth. The disciples were now curious: why was he born without eyes? Who had sinned, the parents or their son? Was his disability the result of sin? The disciples remembered seeing the paralyzed man at the Sheep's Pool. Jesus had made him well and told him go and sin no more, so that worse things would not happen to him. But this situation was different. This man was born without eyes. Jesus told them that neither the parents nor the son had sinned. The man was born blind to show the glory of God.

It was then Jesus said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World" (John 9:5). With that, Jesus picked up some dirt, spat in His hand, and made clay. He applied the clay to the man's eyes and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam (Siloam means "sent"). The blind man obeyed and he went to the pool and washed his eyes, only to find that he could see. He had eyes! No one recognized him anymore. Finally, they brought his parents; they recognized him but could not explain the eyes. The Pharisees continually asked who cured the man. The man retold the events as they happened to the Pharisees countless times.

The Pharisees insisted that the man who cured the blind man was evil, because He cured him

on the Sabbath. The parents were too afraid to say who could have cured their son, so they told the Pharisees to ask their son, who was a man and could speak for himself. The formerly blind man said that he did not know who this Man was; all he knew was once he was blind and now he could see. We know that God does not hear sinners who have not repented; but if anyone does His will, He does hear them. The man continued to describe this marvelous thing; never had anyone open the eyes of a man who had none. The Pharisees and Jews said at once that this man had become a disciple of the Man who cured him, whereas they were disciples of Moses. The man was cast out of the Temple.

"Hearing this Jesus, found the man, and asked him, 'Do you believe in the Son of God?' He answered and said, 'Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?' And Jesus said to him, 'You have both seen Him and it is He who is speaking to you.' Then he said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped Him" (John 9:35–38).

## LIGHT OF THE WORLD PROJECT

Once Jesus was born, the Light entered a dismal world. It is His birth that gave us all "light," giving us hope. In order to live a true Orthodox Christian lifestyle, we must always understand that Jesus came into the world to be our Light,



for each of us. No matter how difficult life may become, He is there for us as long as we turn toward Him and obey Him.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday also shows us two other important lessons: the development of the people accepting the new Light of Jesus, and people not being ashamed or afraid to follow Jesus.

The Pharisees and the Jews held steadfastly to Moses, to the old Law, saying they were disciples of Moses. Even with the events as they happened, they turned their eyes from Jesus. To them it was more important to follow the “letter” of the law than to admit that their world was changing. They were in charge; they had a position of prominence, and they were not about to give it up for anyone. They needed the followers’ adulation. They believed they were perfect in God’s eyes.

Fear and shame was also an outcome of this Gospel reading. The blind man said that no one in the world had ever given eyes to a blind man. If this Man were not from God, He could not have done this (John 9:32–33). His parents refused to admit to the Pharisees that their son was correct, and told them to instead question their adult son. They themselves did not want to go against the Pharisees and the Jews. Yet the blind man saw the truth: that Jesus was the Son of God and had given him eyes to see, a true gift from God. The blind man could see that the miracle was not evil, but something to be cherished. He now had a new life in the Light of God; he was no longer in darkness.

We are like this blind man in a sense, because as we develop spiritually, we learn through the Gospels and Epistles each Sunday we walk in a different light. We are handicapped by our ignorance, but by Jesus’s grace we walk in a new light, an enlightened light.

## “LIGHT OF THE WORLD” BULB

### MATERIALS

- 40-watt incandescent frosted light bulb
- Styrofoam cup
- Pencil and paper
- Heat-resistant glass paint (e.g., the kind that says “bake-able” for dishwasher safe ceramics)
- Paintbrushes
- Cup of water
- Paper towels



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Using a soft cloth or a bit of rubbing alcohol on a cotton ball, carefully wipe your light bulb to make sure it has no dust.
2. Turn the styrofoam cup over and poke a hole in the center of the bottom.
3. Enlarge the hole slightly with your paintbrush tip until it is just a little smaller than the size of the metal base of your bulb. Place the base of the bulb through the hole. Now you can paint freely and allow the bulb to dry with no problem.
4. With pencil and paper, plan a small, simple design.
5. Using the colors you like and an appropriate brush, paint the bulb. Apply two or more coats of paint.
6. Allow it to dry for 1 hour. Remove from the styrofoam cup stand.
7. Screw the bulb into a lamp in your room and turn on the light!

