

April 3, 2011 “And Now I See” John 9

Our sermon hymn “Amazing Grace” is a familiar one to many of us. Written by John Newton back in the 1700’s, it tells his story that began as a slave trader, taking men, women, and children from their homeland in Africa and selling them into slavery around the world. Many people suffered and died in the hold of his ship until John came to know Jesus as his Lord and Savior. By God’s amazing grace, John read the Bible and through the Holy Spirit understood God’s forgiveness found through faith in Jesus and turned his life around. John became a pastor and finished his life sharing the freedom found in Jesus and His death and resurrection. In the song, John writes that he was blind to Jesus and His love, but by grace, he can now see Who God really is in his life. John could now see Jesus and others in need of the Good News about Jesus.

The story of John Newton, and perhaps our own can be summarized in the words of Helen Keller when someone said to her, “What a pity you have no sight.” Helen answered, “Yes, but what a pity that so many have sight but cannot see.” Most of us are blessed and are able to see the world and people around us. We can see the sunrise, the stars, our favorite sports, flowers, and the faces of loved ones. This sight is indeed a blessing from God. But, as Helen reminds us, if our sight is limited to the things of this world, we miss out on seeing Jesus and those things that are eternal.

Because of our sin, we limit our sight to the Sun up above, but not the Savior on the cross. We see flowers in the field but not God’s forgiveness. We see the sky at night yet miss those in need. We see the people who love us and miss out on those Jesus wants us to love.

Our spiritual blindness can lead us to question God and His wisdom. Our lack of understanding, of seeing God’s plans, can lead us away from Church, away from prayer, and even away from Jesus altogether. I had a funeral this week for a little baby girl who lived only two hours. I don’t see the reason, the family didn’t see the reason, but in God’s sight, it will be o.k. We trust that to be true, and we trust that He will stay with us. Even though we can’t see why, we trust Him, as 2 Corinthians 5 tells us, “we live by faith, not by sight” and that’s why we know that God Is Good.. .All The Time.

C.S. Lewis tells the story about a time he was a medical aid during the bombing of London. A little girl was brought into the first-aid station with a leg so mangled, the doctor knew the leg must be removed immediately at the knee or she would die. The doctor saw the pain in her father’s eyes as the father held his little one down on the table. The little girl screamed in pain as the saw cut through skin, muscle, and bone, so the little girl might have life. God, our Father, loves us the same way. He is there with us as we cry out with pain. God sees and understands what we go through and it pierces His heart. We are blind to God’s plans and call out, “Why, God! Why?” When we do, God shows us the cross and reminds us that He still loves us. Though we don’t deserve it because of our sins and fears, but through faith, we can see God walking with us through the pains of this world right to our heavenly home. That’s His amazing grace! Amen pastor matthews