

JESUS CHRIST -- THE SON OF GOD

from the Gospel of John 9:1-38

One day Jesus met a man who was blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."

Jesus told them that He had to do the work that the Father sent Him to do. He said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Then He spat on the ground, made clay with the saliva, and put the clay on the eyes of the blind man. And He told him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and he came back seeing.

The people who previously had seen that he was blind asked him, "How were your eyes opened?" He told them what Jesus had done to heal him. When they asked him where Jesus was, he said, "I do not know." So they brought him to the Pharisees.

The man told the Pharisees how Jesus healed him. It was a Sabbath, so some of them said, "This Man is not from God, because He does work on the Sabbath." The man said, "He is a prophet." But they thought that Jesus was a sinful person and did not believe that Jesus had healed him. They asked his parents who said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he can now see, we do not know. He is of age; ask him."

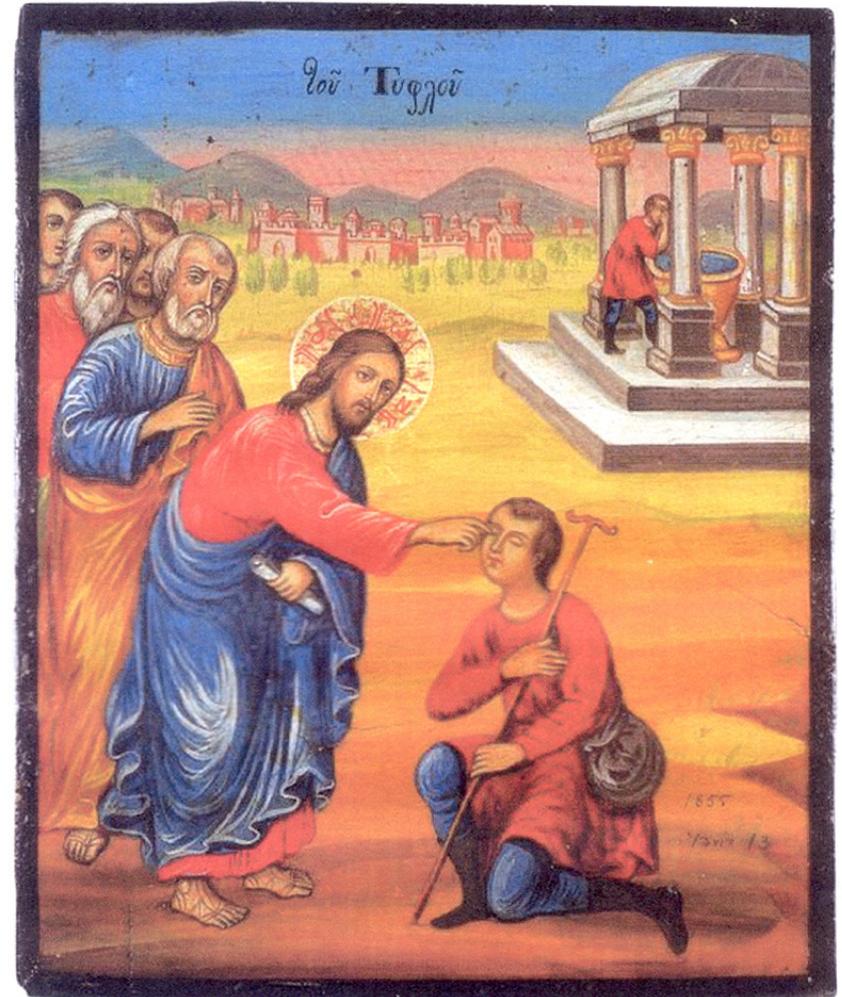
So they asked him again. He said, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" They were angry and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

The man was amazed that they did not know and he said, "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. ... If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They said, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out. He found him and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "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 talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

Sunday of the Blind Man

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."



Lord, I believe!

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Kontakion (hymn) for today says:

I come to You, O Christ, as the man blind from birth. With the eyes of my soul blinded, I cry out to You in repentance, “You are the resplendent Light of those in darkness.”

SPIRITUAL “BLINDNESS”

In the icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man we see Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. Christ is shown putting the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with his disciples. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ, which shows us his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Christ has in His hand a scroll, on which the Orthodox Church tells us is written, “I am the light of the world,” (John 9:5) and “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” (John 9:39).

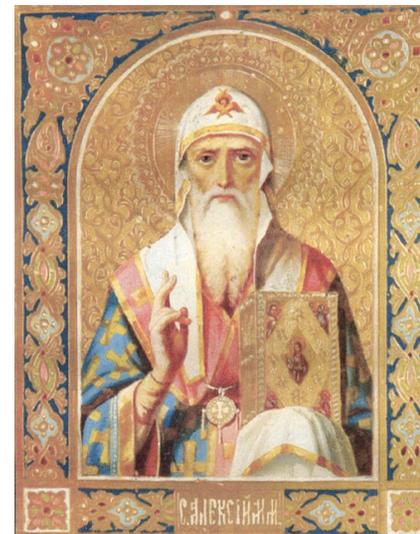
Sometimes we “see” only what we want to see or we “see” only the things that are physical things. The story of Christ giving sight to the Blind Man tells us that Christ wants us to:

1. **Pay attention!** Belief in Christ guides people so “that those who do not see may see.” What that means is that sometimes people might be thinking about personal things in day-to-day life so much that they don’t pay attention to their spiritual lives.
2. **Pay attention to the right things!** When Christ said that He wanted that “those who see may become blind,” He was telling us that sometimes there are things in the world that catch our attention, but they might not always be good things. We should not spend a lot of time (or any time at all) paying attention to things that we know aren’t good for us. We should be “blind” to things that are evil and not allow them into our minds and lives.
3. **Look to Christ!** When Christ says, “I am the light of the world,” He tells us that it is only through belief in Him that we can “see.” He uses the word “see” to mean “to be enlightened” (as we learned in the story about the Samaritan Woman.) When we are “enlightened” that means that we “understand.” **We know that Christ is the Son of God, our Saviour, Who loves us.** When we pray to Him, He guides us and helps us to be spiritually healthy.

THINK ABOUT IT ...

True or False?

1. The story of the Blind Man teaches us that a person can suffer from both physical or spiritual blindness.
__ True __ False Explain: _____
2. Christ said that the man’s blindness was a punishment for the sins of his parents.
__ True __ False Explain: _____
3. The Orthodox Church teaches that the scroll in Christ’s hand contains the words, “I am the light of the world.”
__ True __ False Explain: _____
4. The Pharisees became disciples of Christ because he healed the Blind Man on a Sabbath day.
__ True __ False Explain: _____
5. The Blind Man believed that Christ is the Son of God and worshiped Him.
__ True __ False Explain: _____



DID YOU KNOW?

On May 20, Saint Alexis of Moscow is also commemorated. He was a Metropolitan of Moscow in the 14th century. One time, a ruler (called a “Khan”) who was not a Christian came to him and asked him to heal his wife who was blind. “This is beyond my powers,” said St Alexis, “but I believe that Christ, Who gave sight to the blind, will also aid me.” He anointed her with holy water and prayed to Christ, and she was healed.