

Sermon 10-25-2015 The Blind Shall See

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings you bestow upon me. The blessing of life, the blessing of faith, the blessings of love, and health, and friendship. The blessing of a crisp fall day walking the trails at White Pines State Park with the sun shining on the rainbow of leaves falling around me like a blizzard of snow. The blessings you give to each and every one of us. Every Day... Thank you, dear Lord.

“Bartimaeus, the blind man, said to Jesus, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Bartimaeus rose and saw and followed Him on the way.” Mark 10

I have told many of you the miracle I experience every morning when I put my one contact in over my transplanted cornea and morph from quasi-blindness to essentially normal sight. The contact is large and always stings when I put it in. I have to put a couple of drops of lubricant on the contact before I put it in and stretch my eyelids very wide to make sure it fits. Sometimes it catches on my eyelid and falls in the sink. I start over. When I finally get it in, fighting the sting, blinking the extra lubricant away, I always look to my right out of the bathroom into our family room. And in that instant, that augenblick, I see again, sharply and focused.

My daily miracle came from the generosity of the donor who gave up their cornea, the skill of Dr. Park, the surgeon who performed the transplant and supported me through the recovery, Dr. Heinish, who has been working with me for five plus years to find a contact that won't cause further harm, and Dr. Chu who monitors my glaucoma, which is partially caused by the steroids I take to keep the transplanted cornea from being rejected. But most of all I thank the Lord for granting the physicians the skills and knowledge to perform the operation, care for it and for the pharmacists who give me medications that keep me going.

Last week we celebrated the feast of Saint Luke and part of the Old Testament Reading from Ecclesiasticus follows:

Honor physicians for their services,
for the Lord created them;

for their gift of healing comes from the Most High,
and they are rewarded by the king.
The skill of physicians makes them distinguished,
and in the presence of the great they are admired.
The Lord created medicines out of the earth,
and the sensible will not despise them.
And he gave skill to human beings
that he might be glorified in his marvelous works.
By them the physician heals and takes away pain;
the pharmacist makes a mixture from them.
God's works will never be finished;
and from him health spreads over all the earth.

(Ecclesiasticus 38:1-4,6-10)

The Book of Ecclesiasticus was written between 200 and 175 BCE.

Jesus said to Bartimaeus, "Your faith has made you well." Jesus did not say, "I Have made you well", or "God's Mercy has made you well." No, it was Bartimaeus' own faith that made him well. Faith bestows a miracle: The miracle becomes a blessing.

Somehow there is a connection between them; faith, miracles and blessings; Three minutes after I put my contact in, I forget how blind I am without it, the blessing of the fall walk comes from the miracle of my corrected sight; Faith allows me to take the contact out each night knowing that the morning will bring the miracle of sight again.

Isn't it the same way with just about everything? The miracle of life, the blessings of the day, the faith to go to sleep at night, every night, knowing that the morrow will come, if not here on earth, there with Him in Heaven.

So, count your blessings, appreciate the miracles that happen around you all the time, big and small. Let your faith grow, knowing that He who died for our sins, had the humility to know that it isn't all about Him, but about the huge changes that our faith can bring into our lives and the lives of others.

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings you bestow upon me. The blessing of life, the blessing of faith, the blessings of love, and health, and friendship. The blessing of knowing that Father Luckritz will be with us next Sunday; The miracle that brought him and his lovely wife, Lisa, to us. And the faith that, with him, Trinity can grow and flourish again. Father, Thank you for the blessings you give to all of us. Thank you, dearest Lord.

Amen