

SERMON FOR APRIL 2, 2017

I have worn glasses for a good portion of my life. I think they call those glasses “eyeware” now. One thing I know for sure is that glasses are life-savers when the lenses are right. If the lenses aren’t the correct prescription, then the glasses are worse than useless. Wrong lenses turn any page of writing into a blurry mass of unintelligible squiggles. Wrong lenses actually keep us from seeing. In a strange, paradoxical way, wrong lenses take away sight. They make us blind.

In our story today, two groups of people are wearing incorrect lenses. One group is the neighbours, the townspeople who had known the blind man from birth. The other group is the Pharisees. Let’s learn what lenses they have on.

The neighbours are wearing a lens called blame. They are facing a miracle in the healing of the blind man. Right before their eyes is liberation, freedom, a new beginning. They won’t grasp what Jesus has done, so they look for their own logic to understand. First, they doubt that the healed man is their once blind neighbor. Come on! They have known him all his life!

Not getting that Jesus is a healer, the neighbours let their minds wander. They wonder about what caused the blindness in the first place. “Who sinned?” is their question. Someone must have sinned and this blindness is the punishment. They blame the blind man. They blame his parents. And they miss

the love that heals and saves. They miss the holy at work. Better change those blame lenses for love lenses.

The Pharisees have the same problem as the neighbours, but with different lenses. The Pharisees are wearing the lens of 'let's not change or we will lose our status.' They try to discredit Jesus by arguing over his God-connection. Is he holy? Or is he an imposter?

The Pharisees keep Jesus at bay. If they argue about discrediting him, they never have to accept his witness to the loving holy. And, of course, as long as they argue inconclusively, they never have to change.

The challenge is to get the right lens, the love lens, so that we can see clearly that holy energy works for our wholeness, and calls us to that same purpose. Now, we are not going to be wandering around Waterloo, spitting into the dirt and putting mud on people's eyes. But we can try to see others clearly and value them across difference. We can concern ourselves with wholeness and work to make that happen. We can see love around us and be love for others. It starts with getting the right lens, the love lens.