

Faith Comes by Hearing Bible Study – 3.11.26 (For 3.15.26)

First Reading: Isaiah 42:14-16

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind

in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into
light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

1. In this chapter, Isaiah presents God as a patient warrior waiting for the correct time to act. We see this come through as we come to verse 14. What do these words show us about God's feelings towards injustice and evil?
2. How is God's justice described? What is Isaiah showing us about God's power to transform?
3. What is God's aim and promise for His people? How does He want them to know His work among them?

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸...For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the

things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

1. Throughout the letter to the Ephesians, Paul emphasizes the theme of transformation in God's children. What ways does he do so again in these words?
2. In the transformation, God also brings about something in us. What does God bring forth in us?
3. This culminates in a poem or hymn about the moment that is ours because of Christ. What has Christ done or is doing in His children? How are these encouraging and helpful words?

Gospel: John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

¹As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. here to draw water.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed,

and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

1. When the disciples saw the blind man, they assumed his blindness was caused by sin. How did Jesus correct their thinking? How does Jesus' act convey this to His disciples?
2. The Pharisees were upset because Jesus healed (again) on the Sabbath. Why do you think they cared more about rules than the miracle Jesus performed? What response should have been appropriate for the healing?
3. The man undergoes a transformation as he defends what has happened to him. What is that transformation, especially as it relates to who Jesus is? What does Jesus mean in the last verse that he came into the world “for judgment?”