



## Wednesday Prayer

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – I was blind, now I see.

**“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” John 9:25**

Working to prevent child sexual exploitation is difficult work. Over the nine years of my association with Cherish All Children, I have often said that nobody wants to talk about this stuff because it's hard, and it's uncomfortable! We would much rather talk about joyful and happy things than to see the evil that is trafficking and exploitation. In some ways, we would prefer to stay blind and never be exposed to this ugly reality.

In the Gospel reading for Sunday, Jesus restores sight to a blind man (John 9:1-41). At the core of this passage are the formerly blind man's words: "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." And as uncomfortable and difficult as it is for us to face, we too need God to open our eyes and help us see clearly.

In her commentary on John 9, Melinda Quivik says that we cannot see with our eyes in the dark, and that this kind of blindness is like finding ourselves in a suddenly dark cave. In the dark, you may be surrounded by others, but you are oriented only to yourself. You cannot see anyone else around you and are focused only on your own needs in that moment. When we are living in the Lord and in the light, we can see other people, create community, step into a frightening unknown, and begin to see the big picture.<sup>1</sup>

In my congregation, our youth have begun participating in the child trafficking and exploitation prevention curriculum [Not a Number](#). As we hear real life stories of human trafficking and exploitation, we can see the lightbulbs turning on in the wide eyes and shocked faces of our youth. They are learning and becoming aware, gaining knowledge and skills that will help them create healthy support systems and decrease their vulnerabilities.

So, let us continue to face this difficult work, because opening our eyes and exposing evil to the light of our knowledge is the only way to move forward with hope for the most vulnerable among us! "For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true." Ephesians 5:8

**God of light, we pray for parents, caregivers, teachers, and others who shape children's lives. Help them model healthy relationships, boundaries, and safe behavior. Open their eyes with knowledge and truth about the ways they can lead children to adulthood, teaching respect for each other and keeping them from harm's way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*\*Link to the 4<sup>th</sup> prayer in our [Cherish All Children Lenten Prayer Series](#).*

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4410](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4410)