

## ‘Go and wash...’

The beggar had been blind from birth. He had never seen a sunrise or marveled at a sunset. His world was one of perpetual darkness and dependency.

For all of his life he had been a burden to his family—unable to shepherd the flock or do any work. As he grew to manhood he began to sense his family’s thinly veiled resentment of him. Sobs of anguish would silently well up as he realized he had been a curse upon them. When he was old enough and brave enough he left home.

He made his way into the city and now was on his own. Becoming a beggar had given him his first small measure of independence. He jingled the coins in his hand and called out to attract the attention of the approaching group of voices. The blind beggar’s sharp ears heard one of the men say: “Rabbi, was it his sin or his parents’ that caused him to be born blind?”

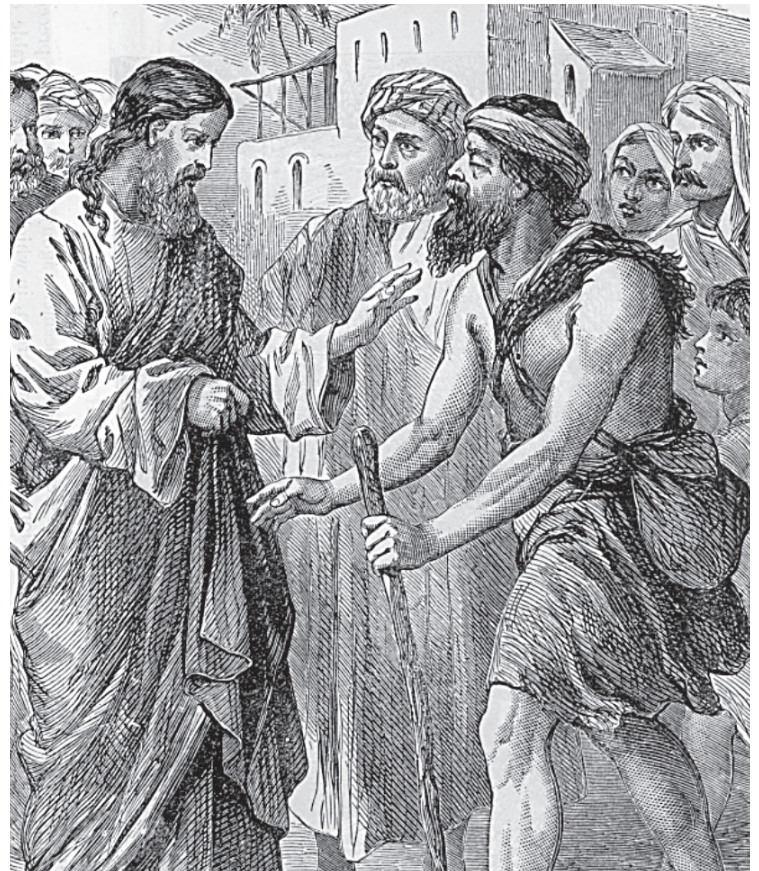
The men were now standing directly in front of him and the beggar pocketed his few coins and cupped both hands together, holding them up in supplication. “Alms?” he begged, using his most hopeful tone of voice. Jesus looked down into the unseeing eyes of the beggar and felt all his sorrow.

“This man was born blind to let the works of God show forth in him,” Jesus said, reaching out to touch his face. The disciples watched in silence as Jesus stooped down to crouch next to the beggar. He scooped up some dirt and spit on it to make mud. With his fingertips Jesus carefully smeared the mud on the man’s eyelids. The beggar sensed something wondrous was taking place and he began to tremble, his breath coming in expectant gasps.

Jesus stood away from him and ordered “Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam the one who has been sent,”

The beggar uncupped his empty hands and carefully touched his eyelids. He felt the mud.

The gathering crowd escorted the blind man to the pool and watched him kneel at the edge. Dipping his hands into the cool water the blind man bowed forward to wash. He scrubbed at the mud and plunged his face in the water to



rinse. The coolness was always refreshing and he let his face float like a boat bottom in the dark water.

Suddenly a bright green light exploded in his head. The shock of it made him splash out to protect himself. The green light swirled into a rainbow and then rained down in crystals of color. Gasping and sputtering he lifted his joy-filled face from the water and clutching at the robes of the man at his side, the beggar opened his eyes to behold the smiling face of Jesus.



Jesus Christ, God on earth, finds a blind beggar and changes him in an instant. Jesus takes the man from despair to exquisite joy. He gives the man the gift of sight, the gift of light. The blind man did let God’s works show through him. He teaches us that Jesus brings us a gift of light too. It is the light of understanding; that Jesus is the light of the world. Many are blind to this truth. To be able to truly see this we must receive his anointing and go wash the mud of sin away from our eyes. Having done this, we can open our new eyes of understanding and behold the smiling face of Jesus.