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The Man Born Blind

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The Man Born Blind
Based on John 9
A play for actors and singers by John Steven Paul
Developed in workshop by Soul Purpose,
The Liturgical Drama Troupe of the Valparaiso University Theatre

Characters:

Narrator (speaks the lines in italics)

Disciples

Jesus

Neighbors – 1, 2, 3

MMB – The Man Born Blind

Pharisees – 1, 2

Parents – 1, 2

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

Disciples:

Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus:

Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that god's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

When he said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud over the man's eyes.

Go, wash in the pool of Siloam¹.

Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

(One verse of "Amazing Grace" during which MBB washes his face in font, now with sight, slowly turns 360 degrees. As soon as JESUS is out of MBB's line of sight, JESUS exits.)

¹ Which means "sent."

Neighbor 1:

Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?

Neighbor 2:

It is he.

Neighbor 3:

No, but it is someone like him.

MBB:

I am the man.

Neighbors:

Then how were your eyes opened?

MBB:

The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.

Neighbors:

Where is he?

MBB:

I do not know.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

Pharisees:

How did he restore your sight?

MBB:

He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.

Pharisee 1:

This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.

Pharisee 2:

How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?

And they were divided.

Pharisees:

(to the Man Born Blind) What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.

MBB:

He is a prophet.

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them.

The Jews:

Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?

Parents:

We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

So for the second time the Pharisees called the man who had been blind, and they said to him.

Pharisees:

Give glory to God! We know that this [Jesus] is a sinner.

MBB:

I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

Pharisees:

What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?

MBB:

I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

Pharisees:

You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.

MBB:

Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

Pharisees:

You were born entirely in sin, and are you trying to teach us?

And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him,

Jesus:

Do you believe in the Son of Man?

MBB:

And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.

Jesus:

You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

MBB:

Lord, I believe.

And he worshipped him.

Jesus:

I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.

All:

Surely we are not blind, are we?

Jesus:

If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "we see," your sin remains.

MBB:

The Word of the Lord.

Congregation:

Thanks be to God.

END