

Korero (discussion/talk) at St Andrew's on Celebrations Sunday (Lent 4)

Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness, and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness as we listen to and meditate on your word. In Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Though I was blind, now I see!¹ – Living in the life of God

“Though I was blind, now I see” is the words from the man born blind after his eyes were open in John’s gospel. Seeing is a vital subject in John’s gospel, but we’ll explore it another time. Today, our focus is on light which is crucial in seeing. Seeing doesn’t necessarily mean a physical seeing only. In English, we have many idioms and sayings that are related to ‘seeing.’ But in scripture, spiritual seeing is the most important subject which enables us to see hope beyond despair and life beyond death. The theme for today is ***living in the light of God.***

In John, together with Ephesians, accepting/realizing the presence of the light is essential when it comes to seeing. Scientists say that if there is no light, there will be no living being on earth. In Genesis, we read how the world was created through the word of God. What did God say to create the world to begin with? ² As read in John, there are different types of blindness. They are 1) physical blindness – e.g. the man born blind 2) spiritual blindness - the Pharisees. 3) blindness created by fear for life - the parents of the blind man. In the case of the man born blind, he became to see not only physically but also spiritually after being healed by Jesus. When he believed in Jesus,³ That’s when he began to live in the light of God. In the case of Pharisees, they could see physically, but they were blind spiritually. The parents of the man are another example of blindness. They did know that a miracle had happened to his son. Yet the fear for the Jews and a possible expulsion from the synagogue had made them turn their blind eyes to the light. Overall these are the examples of living in darkness or living in the light. So the next step is to identify this theme in our lives.

¹ John 9:25 ἀπεκρίθη οὖν ἐκεῖνος· εἰ ἁμαρτωλός ἐστιν οὐκ οἶδα· **ἐν οἶδα ὅτι τυφλὸς ὦν ἄρτι βλέπω.**

² Genesis 1:3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

³ John 9:38, He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him.

This is essential part of our faith journey. We tend to think that we read the bible, and interpret it. But in fact, it is the bible that reads our individual lives and interprets them through the eyes of God. In this korero, (which means ‘discussion’ or ‘conversation’ in Te Reo), we’ll think about one person’s life through the eyes of God with this question: ***what made this lady see things now that she didn’t see before?*** After listening to the story, we’ll share our thoughts and ideas about the story. Then we’ll share any related stories in our lives in relation to this theme – **living in the light of God**. Are you ready?

The title of this picture book is The Visitor by Antje Damm. (Korero begins)