

Those With Disabilities are Indispensable Devotion

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.
~John 9:1-7

"That the Works of God Might Be Displayed ..."

Not long ago I visited a church and was curious about the way in which the service began. As the pre-service music was being played, a middle-aged man approached the altar to light the candles. On either side of this man was another man, steadying the one lighting the candle. With some difficulty, the gentleman in the middle lit the candles and was steadied as he walked back to the rear of the sanctuary. *Really? I thought. It takes three grown men to light the candles at this church?*

After the service, the pastor explained to me that "Jack," the man in the middle, had cerebral palsy and normally used a wheelchair. However, Jack served God and his neighbor by lighting the candles. The two men who assisted Jack served God and their neighbor by helping Jack.

What a blessing! This congregation recognized that ALL people serve in their own ways according to the gifts and abilities with which God has blessed them.

In our Scripture lesson for today, Jesus declares *"...that the works of God might be displayed in [the man born blind]"* BEFORE Jesus has even restored his sight. Yes, one of the works of God was to heal this man, but God had been working in this blind man since his birth, just as He works in ALL of us regardless of age, life experience, or ability.

Prayer: Gracious God, we praise You for the gifts and abilities with which You have blessed all Your people. May Your works be displayed in us to Your glory. Amen.