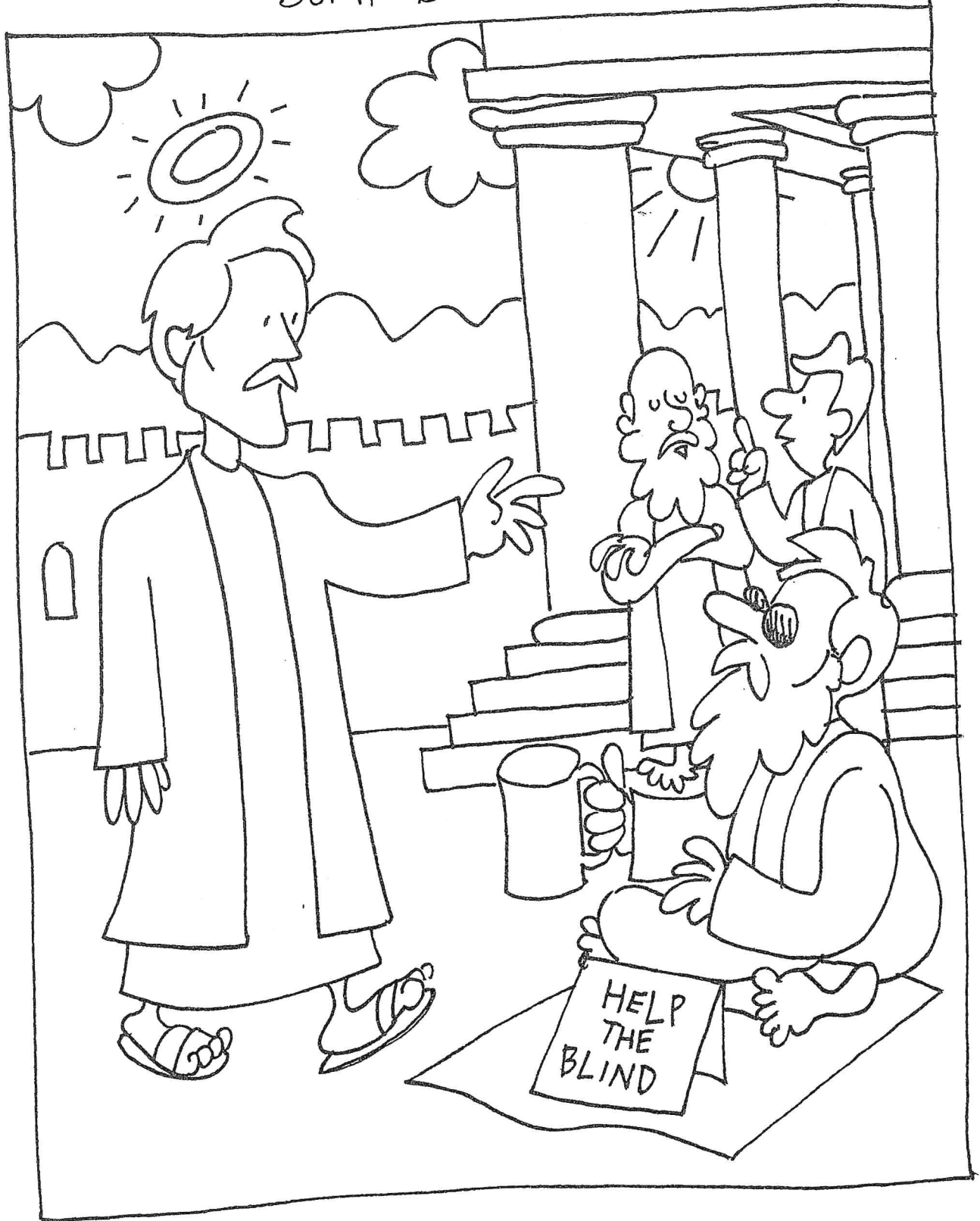


Jesus heals The man who was
born blind Lent 4



There is nowhere I can go that the Lord's goodness and mercy isn't already there. It's like living in the Lord's house for ever and ever.

**The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep.
What more could I need or want?**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians [5:8–14]

Once upon a time you were full of darkness but now, because of God, you are filled with light! So live like you are children of the light, and do things that are good and right and true. Figure out for yourselves what pleases God. Don't take part in the darkness anymore. Instead, shine the light into the dark so everyone can see what's going on.

Like the scriptures say, "Wake up! Rise from the dead, and Christ, your light, will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord.



*The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According
to John [9:1–41]*

As Jesus was walking along on a Sabbath day, the day when you weren't supposed to do any work, he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked him, "Teacher, whose sin caused this man to be born blind?" Jesus said, "Nobody's sin caused his blindness. But now God's goodness can be revealed in him. You know, I am the light of the world."

Just as Jesus said that, he spit on the ground, and made mud with his saliva, and spread it on the man's eyes. Then he sent the man to wash his eyes in the pool of water. When the man came back to Jesus, he could see.

“Whoa!” said his neighbors. “Isn’t this the blind man who used to beg? It can’t be. It looks like him. But this man can see. What is going on?”

The man laughed and said, “Yup. It’s me. I can see alright.”

“Who opened your eyes for you?” they asked him.

“Jesus did,” the man said. “He put mud on my eyes, and when I washed it off, I could see for the first time in my life.”

“Where is Jesus? We want to talk to him.”

“I have no idea where he went,” said the man.

The neighbors took the man to the leaders of the church. They asked him a bunch of questions about how he’d been made to see again. So the man told them his story.

“Hmpf,” said the leaders. “Well, this can’t be God’s doing, because it’s the Sabbath. And nobody who believes in God works on the Sabbath.”

The other leaders said, “But how can anyone except God do such a miracle?”

So they asked the man formerly known as the blind man, “What do you think about this Jesus? It was your eyes that he opened.”

“Well, I think he’s a prophet,” said the man.

Some people refused to believe he’d ever been blind at all. So they called the man’s parents and asked them. “Is this your son and was he born blind? How is it that he can see again?”

The parents said, “Yes, this is our son who was born blind. We have no idea how he can see now or who opened his eyes. Ask him. He’s an adult. He’ll tell you.”

His parents were afraid of those people, because they had said they were going to kick anyone who believed Jesus was the Messiah out of the synagogue.

The church leaders found the man again. The man said, “You know what? All I know is that I have always been blind, and now I can see.”

“But how did he do it?”

The man said, “I already told you my story and you didn’t listen to me. Why do you need to hear it again? Is it because you want to be a follower of Jesus?”

“Ha! Not us. You may be a follower of Jesus, but we are followers of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this Jesus comes from.”

“Here’s the thing,” the man said. “We may not know where he comes from, but he opened my eyes. God may not listen to people we think are sinners, but he listens to those who listen to him. I’ve never heard of anyone born blind being able to see. If Jesus weren’t from God, he wouldn’t have been able to do that.”

Then the church leaders ran him out of there. Jesus heard they’d chased him away, and found him. Jesus asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who would that be? Tell me who he is and I will believe in him,” said the man.

Jesus said to him, “You have seen him with your very own eyes. He’s the one who is speaking to you right now.”

The man, said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Jesus.

Jesus said, “I came into this world so that people who had been blind could see. Those who are able to see might become blind though.”

Some of the leaders heard Jesus say this. And they said, “We’re not blind, are we?”

Jesus said, “If you were blind, and you knew it, there wouldn’t be a barrier between you and God. It’s because you think you can see everything, that a barrier between you and God exists.”

The Gospel of the Lord.