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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, March 26, 2017

4th Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [John 9:1-41](#) [Summary: *Jesus Helps A Blind Man See*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed. *Optional:* A lightbulb

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- Can some of you tell me what your favorite toy is? [*feel free to ask whatever general question you want to ask here. The purpose of the question is to get the kids to tell a little bit about themselves. Your job is to say from time-to-time "I see."*]
- Thank you all for sharing with me your favorite toys.
- Did you by any chance hear what I was saying as you were talking? (Yes, you were saying, "I see.")
- And what do you think I meant when I was saying "I see"? (you meant that you understood what we were saying)
- So there is the type of seeing where you see things with your eyes, right?
- And then there is the type of seeing where you understand things in your mind...
- Sometimes in comics or cartoons, a character will have a little lightbulb light up above their head [*optional: If you have the lightbulb, hold it above your head*] as a way to show this kind of seeing; the lightbulb is a way to show that the character can SEE a new idea/a new thought.

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- I am talking about these two types of seeing because both types of seeing are in today's scripture story.
- We hear about the first type of seeing (seeing with eyes) when Jesus heals a man who was blind.

- Being blind means what, again? That's right! Someone who cannot see with their eyes.
- So Jesus, with God's help, healed the man's eyes so that he could see.
- But then the Pharisees, who are the religious leaders of Israel, they get upset because Jesus healed on the Sabbath.
- The Pharisees think Jesus did work when he healed the man.
- And because they think that working on the Sabbath is a bad thing to do, they are very upset with Jesus.
- Which brings us to the whole point of the story: Because the Pharisees are all upset about this "working on the Sabbath" thing, they can't "see" God's work.
- They don't see or understand what God is doing through and with Jesus.
- There is no light bulb going off above their heads.
- Which is why at the end of the story, Jesus has to tell them that even though they can see things with their eyes, they cannot see the ideas and understandings of God that are right in front of them.
- In other words, even though the Pharisees can see -- they are also blind.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Although the healing of the blind man is a very cool and exciting thing, how the Pharisees act makes this a pretty sad story.
- The very people who should be most excited about how God is at work were completely blind to how God was at work.
- But, we don't need to be like the Pharisees.
- In the same way that Jesus helped the blind man to see with his eyes, Jesus can help us better "see" God.
- And when I say "see God," I'm using the type of "seeing" that means to better understand and know God.
- And when we see God better, then we will also learn to do like Jesus did and be able to help *others* see God better.
- Who can then go and help more people know and understand God better. And on and on and on.
- And that's the Good News for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who teaches us how...

...who teaches us how...

...to see you better.

...to see you better.

Thank you and Amen.