

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

March 15, 2023

Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

RESTORED. “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” (John 9:25). There is so much anxiety trying to fix broken things and cherished items. Angry words, health issues, and sins also need fixing (healing and RESTORATION). The text from John is rather unique as there are many, many questions in the story about the man who was blind from birth being healed (*RESTORED*) by Jesus.

The act of *RESTORATION* of the blind man challenged assumed faith thoughts. To affirm Jesus’ power as a healer (*RESTORER*) was questioned. The man’s life was *RESTORED* and Jesus’ disciples wanted to know why he was blind. Jesus’ disciples wanted to assess blame on who sinned, the man or his parents, instead of celebrating the transformation of the man. The *RESTORED* man’s parents even were worried that their faith community would expel them for their son’s healing that contradicted Pharisee interpretation of religious laws. His parents knew it was their son who was healed; they did not know how it happened and wanted their son to answer the questions. Neighbors knew him as a beggar and once his sight was restored they seemed disappointed that he no longer had to beg. Neighbors had difficulty changing their attitudes “*needing*” a beggar to either curse or feel good about giving him some money.

The Pharisees seemed uncomfortable that his life was *RESTORED* in a way that was not to their liking. Those arrogant Pharisees identified the man as a sinner because of his blindness and could not rejoice with the man whose sight was *RESTORED*. Somehow Jesus “*didn’t follow their laws*” and healing of the blind man was an abomination to their self-righteous claims of how life was to be lived. They could not fathom God healing this sinner. Their faith “*blindness*” objected to the possibility of God’s *RESTORATION* power giving sight to the man. It was the arrogance of the Pharisees that drove the man out of their community. Thanks be to God that the man’s sight was *RESTORED* and he was affirmed as a beloved child of God. No longer excluded from God’s Realm, we learn that ALL PEOPLE are part of God’s Beloved Community and should not be excluded by our arrogance or limited “*vision*” of God’s Power. Be *RESTORED* for Resurrection living. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS*.