



Cape Neddick Tide

*What's Coming and Going at the Cape Neddick Baptist Church
April 2019*

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Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Family of Faith,

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Some time ago, a story ran in the New York Times Magazine about a number of Cambodian women living in Long Beach, California who had witnessed such atrocities, such horrors, under the Khmer Rouge regime in their native country that they had lost their ability to see. Advanced brain wave tests showed that they should have had perfect 20/20 eyesight. The medical specialists attending to them said there was no physical explanation for their sightlessness. Their diagnosis? Functional blindness, a vision loss caused by psychological factors.

"They just don't want to see anymore," said one electrophysiologist based in Los Angeles.

Now psychosomatic disorders are nothing new. We know that our state of mind and spirit can affect our speech, our hearing and our memory as well as our sight. One of the things for which I always pray when someone has experienced a sudden shock or is maneuvering through a long period of recuperation is that the person may be strengthened in mind and in spirit as well as in body. If a person's mind or spirit is deeply injured, he or she will have far greater difficulty in recovering physically. We can and do will ourselves to be blind, to be deaf, and even to be dead, truth be told.

Then there's the phenomenon called "blindsight." Studies have shown that certain blind people, sightless as the result of a stroke or brain injury rather than

damage to the eye, can do a remarkable thing. If an object is put in front of them and they are asked to reach for the object, they will say it is impossible, since they cannot see it. But if they can be persuaded to TRY, they will find the object with a sureness that amazes even themselves.

It turns out these people should have superb vision, but they don't know that they can see. The brain damage that has rendered these patients blind is not in those areas that have to do with seeing per se. Technically, their vision is fine. What their eye sees, however, is never transmitted to the part of the brain that brings vision into awareness. They can "see;" again, they just don't know they can see.

Having eyes but being unable to see. The women from Cambodia were sightless because their minds had subconsciously closed

out horrific images they did not want to see. Those having blindsight also have eyes that should be able to see, but because of damage to other parts of their bodily systems, they are not aware of the images their eyes are transmitting. Seeing but not seeing.

In John, chapter 9, we read about a man who was sightless. The first thing that leaps out at me about this passage is the different kinds of blindness portrayed in the very first verse.

Jesus and His disciples encounter this blind man and the disciples start discussing him as if he's not even there. It's as if they see him but they don't SEE him. And then they have the further audacity to speculate -- within his earshot -- about the cause of his blindness.

They wonder with a sort of clinical coolness, "Is he blind because of something he did or blind because of something his parents did?" In Biblical times, conventional wisdom held that if you had something "wrong" with you, it was the result of sin. The man blind from birth presented a perplexing problem for the disciples. How could he have sinned before he was born? Did he somehow sin in the womb or had his parents done something so awful that the result would be a child born blind?

What Jesus did stands in stark contrast to the behavior of the disciples. First, Jesus SAW the blind man. Now I'd be willing to bet that great numbers of people passed this man every day and never saw him. They never tried to help him or even to relate to him. They acted like he wasn't

even there. Do any of us do that in our daily lives? Do we fail to see? Do we choose not to see? Do we turn away so we won't be forced to see? Have any of us ever hated others, or disdained others or dismissed others before we spent any time with them?

Jesus SAW the blind man. That's the first thing we need to see. He didn't try to hurry by him or ignore him. He didn't see him as somehow different or unworthy. He saw him as a precious human soul. Jesus SAW the man.

Then he refused to enter into the callous debate as to the cause of the man's blindness sufficing it to say that neither the man nor his parents were being punished for sin. Then he introduced the theme of light coming into darkness and, with these words, He took the entire encounter to a new dimension. The man, blind from birth, had lived in total darkness, and Jesus uses the man's coming to sight, coming to light, as a metaphor for what Jesus was doing in the world.

Jesus then spit on the ground and made a mud paste which he placed on the man's eyes. Now, some of us may feel a bit of disgust upon hearing this. He spit on the ground, made mud from that spittle and dirt, and then put that on the man's eyes?

In an article I found on line, entitled, "The Wonders of Saliva," the author tells us that saliva is much more than a liquid that renders food slimy and digestible. "Science has revealed that saliva is much more than water. It's packed with proteins that help control the teeming hordes of microbes in our

mouths. It is stuffed with substances that stop our teeth from dissolving and help heal wounds. When mouths dry out, cavities blossom like flowers in spring and tongues become sore and fissured, breeding grounds for yeast. In a spit-depleted world, speaking and swallowing are challenges. Tens of thousands of people who've receive radiotherapy for head and neck cancers and have permanent damage to their salivary glands will tell you what a precious substance saliva is."

My husband Gene is such a one and chews gum constantly so he can keep producing saliva. Now that you know the wonders of saliva, imagine the wonders of saliva from the mouth of Jesus!

So, Jesus made a paste from mud and saliva and told the man to go to the Pool of Siloam, which was just inside the city walls of Jerusalem. The author of this gospel, John, tells us that Siloam means "Sent." The man went and washed and came home seeing. All of this serves to further emphasize that Jesus is the Light of God sent into the world.

The next thing to note here is that Jesus healed him. He gave Him sight. He enabled him to see. What a gift! And a gift not only of physical sight but of spiritual sight as well.

The Greek word used for what Jesus did to the man's eyes is "chrio" and that word translates into the English "anoint." Jesus is referred to in the Greek as "Christos" which translates to the English "Anointed One." We call Jesus the Christ.

Jesus Christ. Jesus, the anointed One, anointed the man's eyes! He "Christ-ed," if you will, the man's eyes! Isn't that beautiful?

Now, when you have a minute read on in this chapter to see what transpires after all of this. Most especially notice the progression of the healed man's understanding of who Jesus is. See in verse 11, he refers to Jesus as a Man. He says "The man they call Jesus did this for me. Next, in verse 17, he calls Jesus a Prophet. Then in a wonderfully intimate moment, in verse 38, he recognizes Jesus as the Son of God, claims Him as the Lord of his life, and worships Him.

See this: the closer he gets to Jesus—the more time he spends with Jesus—the more clearly, he sees God and the more he sees as God sees! And that's the way it works for us, too, because you see, that's what it means to have Christ-ed eyes.

In the gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus speaks of people needing eyes that will allow light to enter. When our spiritual eyes are bad, our body is full of darkness. In Luke as well, Jesus says—in essence—that those who refuse to have their eyes "Christ-ed" will be ever seeing but not seeing, ever hearing but not understanding.

The man healed by Jesus was given physical and spiritual sight. What a gift! Can you feel his joy? Can you recall the joy when your own eyes were opened to the truth of Jesus as Savior and Lord? Or are you in need of having your eyes opened?

James L. Kraft, founder of the Kraft Cheese Company, recalled

as a great turning point in his life the day when a certain kindly eye doctor came into his life. James was a fourteen-year-old boy, one of a family of eleven children, living on a farm in Canada. In his book, *Adventure in Jade*, he related that he had never been able to distinguish objects clearly. His nearsightedness was so acute and so distressing that he assumed everyone on earth suffered continuously from furious headaches, and that all the earth had the blurry image of a boat seen from under water. But one summer an eye doctor from the city was vacationing in the area, and young James was taking care of the doctor's horse and buggy. Noting his extreme nearsightedness, the eye doctor insisted that James go to the city with him to be fitted with a pair of glasses. In that gift of glasses, Kraft gratefully recalled, "he gave me the earth and all that was in it, completely in focus and beautiful beyond anything I could have dreamed. I cannot think of another act of human kindness in my lifetime which can compare with his."

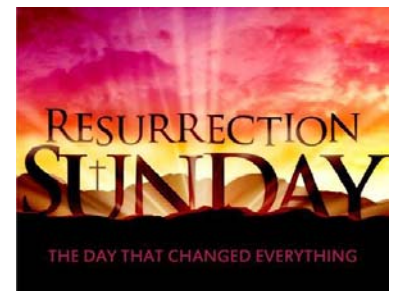
The blind man that Jesus healed would undoubtedly have given the same kind of testimony. In fact, when he discovered it was Jesus—the Christ—who had healed him, he bowed before him and worshiped him. It's a wonderful thing to be healed by Jesus, whatever your need might be.

As we move into these last days of Lent and look toward Resurrection Sunday, may we each give thanks for the healing that is ours through Jesus Christ. May we each give thanks for the spiritual sight that is ours

through Jesus Christ. May we ask Him to reveal to us any blind spots we may have been refusing to acknowledge, and may we move through this time with a greater determination to always see as the Lord would have us see. May our God "Christ" our eyes, our ears, our mouths, our hands, our feet, our minds and our hearts that we might see, hear, speak, do, go, think and love that which will most please the Lord.

In the Love of Christ Jesus, Pastor Donna

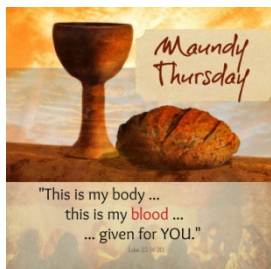
[Resources for the preceding include a piece written by King Duncan entitled, "What's the Matter? Are You Blind?"; an article by Alexandra Smith in *The New York Times Magazine* entitled "Eyes that Saw Horrors, Now See Only Shadows;" and an online article, on the Oral Cancer Foundation website, by Rosie Mestel, entitled, "The Wonders of Saliva."]



Holy Week Services and Events
Sunday April 14, at 10:15am - Palm Sunday Service at the Cape Neddick Baptist Church
Thursday April 18, at 6:00pm - Maundy Thursday Pot-Luck Supper and Service at the Cape Neddick Baptist Church
Friday April 19, at 7:00pm - Joint Good Friday Service with the Ogunquit Baptist Church at the Ogunquit Baptist Church
Sunday April 21, at 5:45am - Easter Sunrise Service at the Israel Head Lighthouse on Israel Head Road in Ogunquit; Easter Breakfast to follow at the Ogunquit Baptist Church

Sunday April 21, at 9:00am -
 "The Greatest Thing Ever" Easter event will include an egg hunt, hands-on object lessons, snacks, fun and surprises for the whole family

Sunday April 21 at 10:15am -
 Easter Service at the Cape Neddick Baptist Church



Maundy Thursday Pot-Luck Supper and Service – April 18 at 6:00pm

Please bring your favorite hot dish, salad or/and dessert to share. Join us as we commemorate the last meal Jesus shared with His disciples. "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:24 & 25



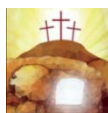
Easter Sunrise Breakfast

Muffins

Our church supplies the muffins for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast at the Ogunquit Baptist Church. We need to supply at least twelve (12) dozen muffins. Please leave your donated muffins in Cape Neddick Baptist Church fellowship hall on Saturday April 20th by 5:00pm. Thank you.



We will be hosting the York Association American Baptist Women's Ministries Basket Meeting on Saturday, May 4. Registration will open at 8:30 and be followed by a morning program of devotions, officer updates, music and more. After sharing a meal together (participants will bring their own lunches), the afternoon will be centered on a program of prayer created through the efforts of women in the Baptist World Alliance.



Celebrate with us on Easter Sunday, April 21st, from 9-10 AM at our "The Greatest Thing Ever" Event. Through our egg hunt, hands-on object lessons, snacks, fun and surprises we will learn what *The Greatest Thing Ever* really is. Expect a joy-filled time. All are welcome. Be sure to watch our website and check your mailboxes for further details.

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Plans for our VBS 2019 taking place this July are

underway. We want your input as we determine the best week and the best materials to use. Sue, Sheri, Pastor Donna and Dianne would enjoy hearing your thoughts. Volunteers will be needed and appreciated in all areas of service. Follow our website to see God's plans as they unfold!



Changes in the fellowship hall and in

the two youth rooms continue as these spaces are updated and reorganized. The goal is to make these spaces friendly and inviting. New things have been purchased and the first floor youth room is about to be painted and decorated. We are sending music books to Bagaduce Music Library in Blue Hill, Maine, so that our materials can be of benefit to others.



Easter Lilies

If you like an Easter Lily in honor or memory of someone to be on display at the front of the church on Easter Sunday, please sign up in the back of the church or contact Sheri Nadeau 603-505-2196.



Birthday and Anniversary

Sheets are on the back table. If there is anyone interested in having their name added to the sheets, please call. Betty Lovering. 207 363 8009