

Dear Evangelical German Language Congregation in South Australia!

Again, due to lack of time, today only a short newsletter with two sermon meditations for the coming two Sundays. And yes, we do celebrate our worship services again face-to-face in churches — God willing and as far as "Corona" regulations allow it!

8th Sunday after Trinitatis, August 2, 2020 The healing of the blind (Gospel of John 9:1-7)

Our sermon text today is the report of a healing miracle of Jesus, but at the same time it is much more: It is a parable for our earthly life. While most of the time Jesus only tells the parable, here he demonstrates it "*in situ*" thus giving us further insights.

From birth, all of us are spiritually blind, although mysteries and wonders are much more accessible to the children of God than to us adults. Spiritual blindness began in Paradise. Giving more faith to the lies of the serpent than to the friend and creator God has caused this blindness, and we are all burdened by it. One consequence of this blindness is our attempt to point all our guilt away from ourselves to others. Even the disciples play this game by asking the question, "Who is to blame for this man's blindness?"

But Jesus does not want to get involved in finding a scapegoat. In the Old Testament, a sin committed could be passed on to a sacrificial animal by the sinner laying his hands on the head of the animal and confessing his sin. Jesus came to us voluntarily to become this sin offering for us so that we can stand before our Heavenly Father free of sin. What love, what mercy, what grace.

The blindness of this man in our Bible passage is not due to any fault of the parents or their child; rather, it is to show the power of God and His grace. As children we are blessed when our Christian parents bring us to the baptism font. There, the original sin is washed away in obedience to God's Word and we are promised eternal life through water and God's Word. When these children are later introduced to the Word of God by the "messengers" to them — their parents and godparents — through the stories of the Bible, the prerequisite is given to these children to become *seeing* grownups.

Let us thank Christ for his sacrifice, and let us tell others who do not yet know this source of eternal life, so that they too can find their God and Saviour and become truly *seeing*. Let us take to heart Jesus' word "that as long as there is daylight, to do the deeds of God who has sent me [Jesus]." In Christ, we too are sent to spread His invitation to repent.

Theo Pucha (Hahndorf SA)

"Go to the Siloam Pool ..."

9 As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind since birth. 2 Jesus' disciples asked, "Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it because he or his parents sinned?"

3 "No, it wasn't!" Jesus answered. "But because of his blindness, you will see God work a miracle for him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do what the one who sent me wants me to do. When night comes, no one can work.

5 While I am in the world, I am the light for the world."

6 After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud and smeared it on the man's eyes. 7 Then he said, "Go and wash off the mud in Siloam Pool." The man went and washed in Siloam, which means "One Who Is Sent." When he had washed off the mud, he could see.

Gospel of John 9:1-7 (CEV)



9th Sunday after Trinitatis, 9.8.2020

The calling of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Predestined, from birth, as a prophet of God. That is the fate of this young man, Jeremiah. To right, to fight, to destroy, to ruin.



Not a very nice role in life. And he's fighting it. Without success. He becomes one of the many God warriors who hold up a mirror to the people of Israel and the rulers of the world.

The East German writer and poet **Jürgen Rennert**, in the late 1980s involved with the opposition movement of **East Germany**, identifies himself with Jeremiah in this way:

To be Jeremiah,

means to be challenged mercilessly, and early on.

Means: To persevere.

Means: To hold on.

Means: Not to curry favor with the people or the rulers.

Means: To say yes to the yoke of one's own history and those of others.

Means: To recognize and defend God's reason as politically sound.

Means: To be right against one's own desires, to see one's own state rebel senselessly and sink into stupidity.

Means: To become powerless and, in old age, involuntarily find oneself at an undesirable side.

Means: Die unknown, anonymously.

Sage nicht, "Ich bin zu jung ..."

4 Und des HERRN Wort geschah zu mir
und sprach:

5 Ich kannte dich, ehe denn ich dich im Mutterleibe bereite-
te, und sonderte dich aus, ehe denn du von der Mutter geboren
wurdest, und stellte dich zum Propheten unter die Völker.

6 Ich aber sprach:

Ach HERR HERR, ich taue nicht, zu predigen;
denn ich bin zu jung.

7 Der HERR sprach aber zu mir:

Sage nicht: "Ich bin zu jung";
sondern du sollst gehen, wohin ich dich sende,
und predigen, was ich dich heiße.

8 Fürchte dich nicht vor ihnen;
denn ich bin bei dir und will dich erretten,

9 Und der HERR reckte seine Hand aus
und rührte meinen Mund an
und sprach zu mir:

Siehe, ich lege meine Worte in deinen Mund.

10 Siehe, ich setze dich heute dieses Tages
über Völker und Königreiche,
daß du ausreißen, zerbrechen, verstören und verderben sollst
und bauen und pflanzen.

Jeremia 1,4-10 (Luther)

Regular Worship Services in 2020

- 1st and 3rd Sunday in a months, 11:00 am: Immanuel Lutheran Church North Adelaide, 139 Archer St, North Adelaide SA 5006,
- 2nd Sunday in a month, 11:30 am: Calvary Lutheran Church Morphett Vale, 5 Windsong Court, Morphett Vale SA 5162,
- 4th Sunday in a month, 11:00 am: Tabor Lutheran Church Tanunda (Barossa Valley), 77 Murray St, Tanunda SA 5352,
- **„Online“-worship services „live“ and in German: German Evangelical Lutheran Church Sydney**
Details: <kirche-sydney.org.au> & via Email.
- **„Virtual“ worship services as Youtube-Video in the German Language:**
 - German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church Melbourne-East: [Website](#), [Youtube Channel](#).
 - **St John's Lutheran Church Perth, WA:** [Youtube Channel](#).
 - Evangelical St John Church Springvale VIC (Melbourne): [Website](#), [Youtube Channel](#).

Sources

Page 1 — Image: Walter Habdank, 'Blindenheilung'; Holzschnitt 1979. © [Galerie Habdank](#). Page 2 — Image: Ernst Barlach, *Zorniger Prophet*, Coal drawing 1918/19, via <bibelwissenschaft.de/WiBiLex>. Text: Jürgen Rennert, *Dialog mit der Bibel. Malerei und Grafik aus der DDR zu biblischen Themen*, Berlin 1984.



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