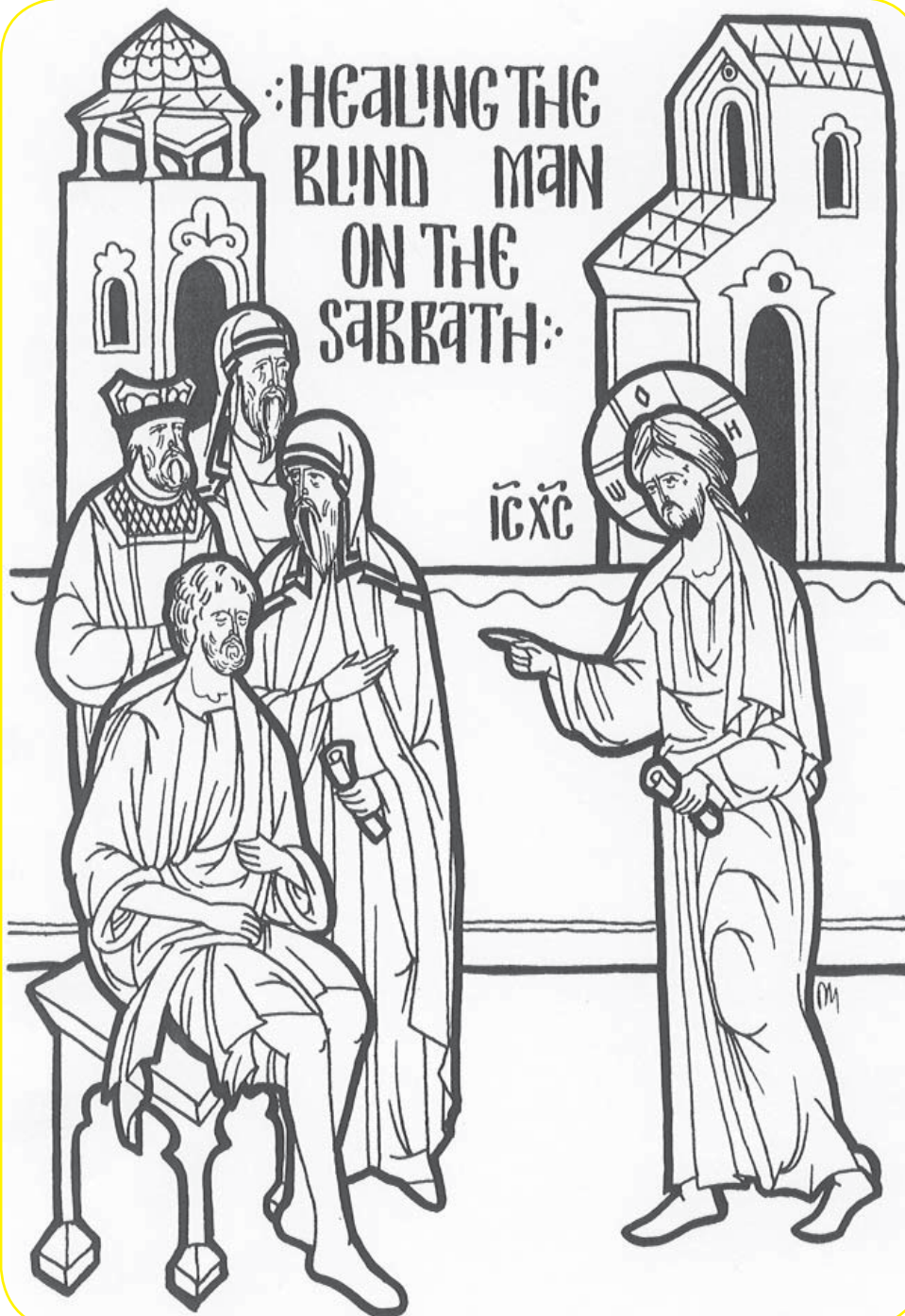


As Jesus was walking, he saw a blind man. Jesus spit on the ground and made some clay. He placed it on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in a nearby pool. The man did, and he was cured!

People brought the healed man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus healed him on the sabbath, when their laws said it was not right to do work. The people did not believe that Jesus was from God. They didn't think Jesus could have cured the blind man! The man was surprised they didn't believe. He became a follower of Jesus.

1. Look at the icon. When did the story happen?
2. What did Jesus do to heal the blind man?
3. Why were the Pharisees upset with him for healing the man?
4. Why didn't the people believe that Jesus had cured the man?



As Jesus was walking, he saw a blind man. Jesus spit on the ground and made some clay. He placed it on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in a nearby pool. The man did, and then was cured!

People brought the healed man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus healed him on the sabbath, when their laws said it was not right to do work. They asked the man who Jesus was, and he replied, "A prophet."

The people did not believe that Jesus had performed this miracle. They didn't want to believe that Jesus was from God. The man was surprised at their lack of faith. They threw him out of the synagogue.

Jesus found the man and asked him if he believe in the Son of God. The man asked who the Son of God was. Jesus said, "He is speaking to you." The man said, "Lord, I believe."

1. Look at the icon. When did the story happen? What day of the week is the sabbath?
2. What did Jesus do to heal the blind man?
3. Why were the Pharisees upset with him for healing the man?
4. Why didn't the people believe that Jesus had cured the man?

At that time,

as Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Silo'am and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."



They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your

son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not

know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

1. What do the Jews ask the parents of the blind man?
2. How do they respond?
3. What do you think they meant when they said he was of age?
4. Do you remember when you were baptized? Ask someone who was there with you the following ques-

- tions if you don't remember: Who spoke for you? Who said the creed for you? Did you say these things or did someone else?
5. If someone else did it for you, why would we let someone else answer the priest's questions if they are your questions to answer?

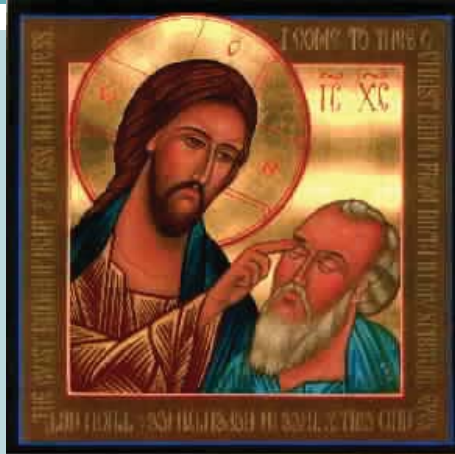
6. What does that say about you? Our community? Do we think you are only responsible for yourself or are we all responsible for each other?
7. How can you help be responsible for the faith of other members of our church?

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1. Why does Jesus say the man was born blind? What could that mean?
2. What does this suggest about why you were born the way you are?
3. What work must Jesus and his disciples do?
4. What does the word disciple mean? Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? If you are, what must you do?
5. As long as Jesus is in the world what is he?
6. On Pascha and at baptisms we sing: "As many as have been baptized into Christ have..." How do we finish that song?
7. Have you put on Christ? What does that mean?
8. Is Jesus in the world today? Is he alive? If we have put on Christ does that mean he is alive in us?
9. If we bring Jesus into the world today, what does that mean he is doing through us? (Look back at question 5.)
10. What do you think this gospel is telling you your life is for? What do you think about that idea? Why?

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Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

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2. What assumptions does their question contain?
3. What does this suggest about why they think bad things happen to people?
4. What do you think of their ideas? What is helpful about their perspective? What does it fail to address?
5. Why does Jesus say the man was born blind? What could that mean?
6. What does his response suggest about why bad things happen to good people?
7. What is troubling about this response? What is satisfying or helpful about it?
8. Why do you think difficult things happen in our lives sometimes? What do you like about your solution? What parts of this problem are not solved by your solution?
9. Do you think we can ever answer this question fully? Why or why not?

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