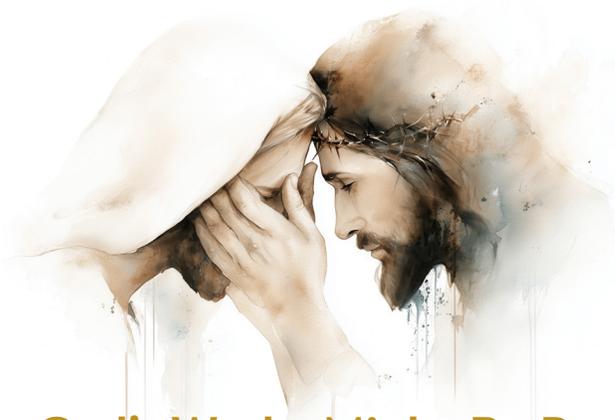


# Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

## Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a • Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41



## That God's Works Might Be Revealed

The Fourth Sunday of Lent reminds us that God's ways are not our ways. Humanity often judges by appearances, measuring people by outward success, ability, or strength. But the Lord tells Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). God chooses David, the youngest and least expected, to be king. This is a reminder that he delights in working through those the world overlooks!

This truth comes to life in today's Gospel, where Jesus heals a man born blind (John 9). The disciples wonder whose fault it was, his own or his parents', that he was afflicted. But Jesus corrects them: "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him" (John 9:3). The man's weakness becomes the very place where God's glory is revealed. With clay and spittle, Jesus anoints his eyes and sends him to wash in the pool of Siloam, whose name means "Sent." From the place of weakness, he is healed and then sent forth as a witness.

So it is in our own lives! Each of us carries limitations, wounds, or inadequacies we would rather hide. Yet the mystery of the Gospel is that weakness does not disqualify us from God's work; it becomes the stage on which his power is displayed. St. Paul would later write, "power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). The cross itself looked like ultimate defeat, yet it became the place of ultimate victory. In Christ, what the world calls limitation can become the very means of salvation and mission.

## Living the Gospel

Lent is not about proving our strength but about surrendering our weakness to God. This week, prayerfully name one area of inadequacy or struggle you carry and consciously place it in Christ's hands. Ask him to transform it into a place of encounter with his grace. Then, like the man born blind, allow yourself to be "sent," sharing how Christ has met you in your weakness so that others may also believe.

## Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7miWiYUfABA> and  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ay6fm3I1-EA>

## Ponder and Pray

» Each of us carries areas of weakness or limitation, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. How do you approach—or ignore—your vulnerabilities? What would it look like this Lent to bring those very weaknesses to Christ and allow him to reveal his strength through them?

» Jesus declared that the man’s blindness was not the result of sin but an opportunity for “the works of God [to be] made visible” (John 9:3). How might your own struggles or inadequacies be reframed as opportunities for God’s glory? Can you begin to see your weakness not as a disqualification but as a place of encounter where his grace can be displayed?

» The man washed in the pool of Siloam and was not only healed but also sent forth as a witness. How might Christ be calling you to go forth from your own places of healing and weakness to bear testimony to his mercy? Who in your life needs to hear how the Lord has worked in you, so that they, too, may come to believe?

**“ You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. —Ephesians 5:8 ”**

### Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write about anything related to today’s Mass. It might be your view of Jeff Cavins’s reflection, your priest’s homily, your answers to the questions on this page—whatever will help you and your household get the most out of today’s celebration.

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