

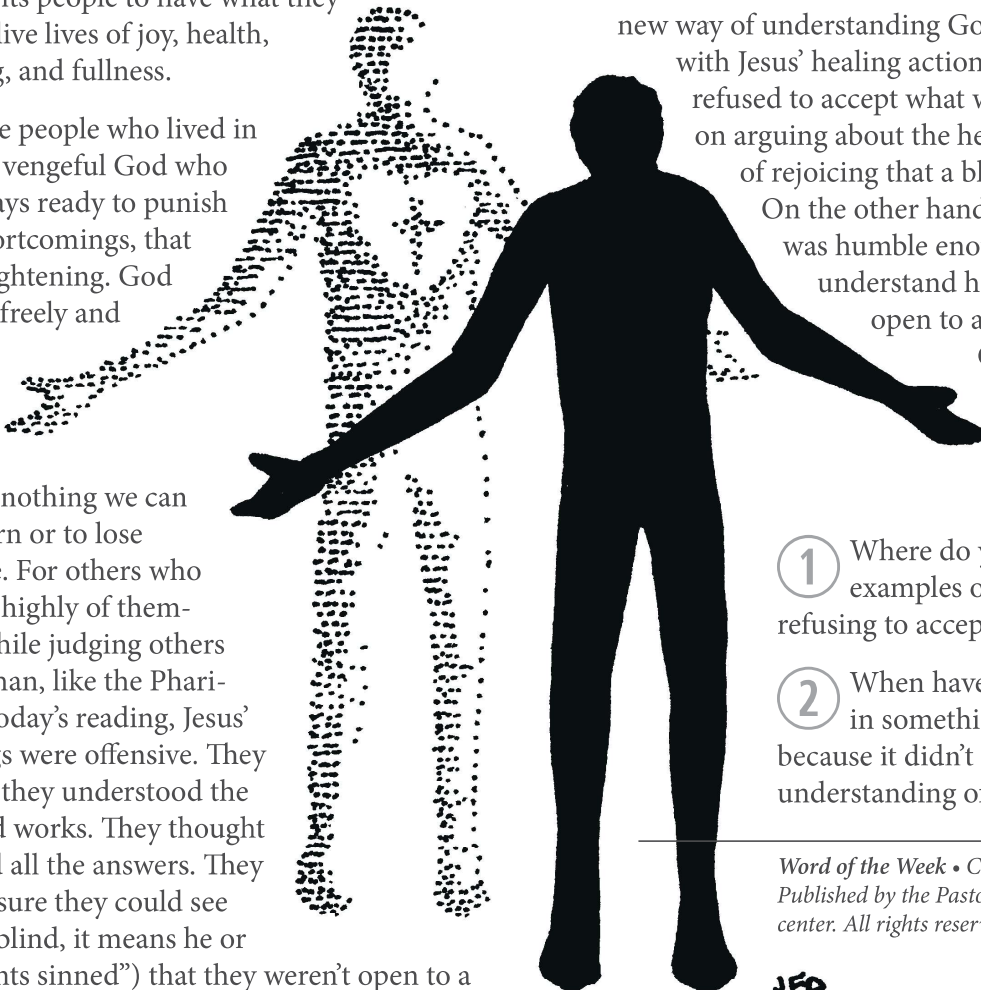
They Don't Get It

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a - Samuel anoints David
- ▶ Ephesians 5:8-14 - Duty to live in the light
- ▶ John 9:1-41 - The man born blind

In some ways, Jesus' entire ministry was about bringing light into darkness and opening the eyes of the blind. He brought good news to the poor ("God knows your every need and will provide for you"). He proclaimed release to captives ("You did nothing to deserve your illness, leprosy, or disability and I am not afraid to touch you. I want you to be welcomed back into the community.") He let the oppressed go free ("As a foreigner, a member of a different religion, a woman, or a widow I am on your side - I don't condone how others exploit you or treat you unfairly.") In his teaching and his preaching, he conveyed that God wants people to have what they need to live lives of joy, health, meaning, and fullness.

For some people who lived in fear of a vengeful God who was always ready to punish their shortcomings, that was enlightening. God loves us freely and beyond our imagining. There is nothing we can do to earn or to lose that love. For others who thought highly of themselves while judging others as less-than, like the Pharisees in today's reading, Jesus' teachings were offensive. They thought they understood the way God works. They thought they had all the answers. They were so sure they could see ("If he's blind, it means he or his parents sinned") that they weren't open to a



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"Live as children of the light, for light produces every kind of good and righteousness and truth."

Sheepish Question:
Who have I run into this week who needs my attention?

new way of understanding God. When confronted with Jesus' healing actions, they shut down and refused to accept what was good. (Why insist on arguing about the healer's identity instead of rejoicing that a blind man can now see?) On the other hand, the man born blind was humble enough to admit he didn't understand how God works, but was open to accepting Jesus as the God-sent healer he was.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Where do you experience examples of people stubbornly refusing to accept God's good works?
- 2 When have you resisted believing in something wonderful because it didn't fit into your previous understanding of how God works?

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