

*The Man
Born Blind*



meet our own expectations or the expectations of other people. Sometimes the distortion comes from our experience of how other people see us, especially if they have criticized us. We can be labeled by people, by the circumstances in which we were raised, or by the superficial labels of our secular culture.

Trust the process. How do you see yourself? How have your sin or your failings influenced or distorted the way you see yourself?

Today, take time set apart in silence. Ask yourself, How do you see yourself, through your eyes or God's?

What words stood out to you as you prayed?
What did you find stirring in your heart?

For Your Prayer

*Read John 9:1–34 to get familiar with the Gospel reading.
Then read Zechariah 3:1–7. Read it three times very slowly. What word or phrase tugs at your heart? Talk to God about how this word or phrase applies to your life.*

Unafraid

“Take away the stone.”

– JOHN 11:39

Imagine the scene: Jesus arrives and finds a large crowd gathered in Bethany, all of them mourning the death of Lazarus. As he arrives amid the fervor of tears and grief, his presence pierces the noise and his radiating authority silences the crowd.

With an effortless confidence and the authority that transcends human understanding, Jesus strides toward the tomb. Jesus is calm in the midst of the chaos. Jesus is composed, interiorly quiet, and clearly in communion with the Father.

As Jesus stares at the stone outside the tomb, you can feel the energy swirling around the crowd. They are staring at Jesus as he stares at the tomb. You can almost feel the surprise, the sudden catching of breath and the silence, as the people realize that Jesus is about to confront the tomb.

Breaking the silence, Jesus shakes the earth with four words: “Take away the stone.”

You can feel the collective shock of the crowd, and then their quick fear of what the tomb will smell like. The crowd is visibly afraid of what is inside the tomb.

Jesus is not afraid of anything. Jesus is not afraid of tombs. Jesus is not afraid of death. Jesus is unafraid.

Jesus knows who he is, and Jesus is who he says he is. He knows the end of the story because he was there with the Father from the beginning of time. He knows that Lazarus will come back to life. He knows that he too will conquer death, victorious over all things in the Resurrection. The tomb is sealed, and the people are afraid, but Jesus is unafraid.

HOLY WEEK

Hosanna

