



Sunday of the Man Born Blind

Every year on the sixth Sunday of Pascha we are privileged to hear the account of Jesus healing the man who was born blind. Jesus had just left the temple in order to abate the rage of the Pharisees who “would not receive His sublime sayings but said that He had a devil, and attempted to kill Him.” Being rejected by the Pharisees, He leaves the temple and immediately sees the man who had suffered blindness from birth. Jesus, the Good Shepherd—always searching for those of good will—knows that this poor, ignorant man will accept the light of Faith together with the gift of physical sight.

The blind man obeys Jesus in every detail that He directs him to do. He asks no questions and is docile to His every command. He does not resist the graces that are bestowed on him. For this submission he is granted the miraculous healing of his eyes.

After Jesus performs this stupendous miracle, the Pharisees hound and harass the man, hoping he would implicate Jesus in some wrong doing. But he boldly defends Christ even before knowing that He is the Messiah. The man is reviled and cursed. His testimony of the truth is “rewarded” by expulsion from the temple!

But Jesus *truly* rewards him; He seeks him out again and reveals to him personally that He is the Son of God. Sidonius, *the man born blind*, “became a disciple of Christ and a holy and apostolic man.” “Having given sight to his body, He now enlightens his mind.” He was baptized by the Apostles and “was a special associate of St. Maximinus, and together with him, and Lazarus and his sisters, was placed in a small boat and expelled from the land of the Jews.” They safely arrived in southern France. St. Maximinus was made bishop of Aix, France, and Sidonius “became his assistant in preaching. After many days he rested in peace and was secretly buried beside his master.”

(Sources and Quotations: The [Great Commentary of Cornelius a Lapide](#), [biblehub.com](#))