

## Saturday - March 16

*Jesus said to him (the man whose sight Jesus restored), "You have seen him, and the one speaking to you is he (the Son of Man)." He said, "Lord, I believe."*

*John 9:37-38*

Decade birthdays and anniversaries always make me pause to contemplate life. I turned 60 this past December, and in October, I mused the anniversary since my dad's tragic farming accident. It hit me hard 40 years ago because he had saved me from a worse fate in an eerily similar accident (I still have the scar where my leg was broken). I was very "inward" then. By that I mean shy, lacking confidence, and retrospective. To fight the lingering despair, I changed two things that year: I started reading my Bible and I bought a horse. It might be weird, but the solitude and purposefulness of riding was often uplifting and spiritual for me, particularly at sunset. Maybe I'm "perseverating" (my better half says I do), but my dad's name, Philip, translates to "friend/lover of horses". A few years later, my horse trader friend Dan asked me if I would build him a corral at his new place. When Dan started losing his sight, he lived his dream (from reading Zane Grey novels) of working on a ranch in the west until his failing sight forced him to move back to Illinois. However, he had learned to break horses and to "see" their conformation using his hands. While working on the corral, I remember asking Dan if he ever was afraid of getting knocked into the fence and falling off. He said, "Jeff, you don't think a horse is dumb enough to run into a fence, do you?" A few years after that, I met a pretty lady on an internship at the University of Illinois. I would never have been "outward" enough to talk with her had she not asked me about my horse. When we moved to Ohio, our horse remained in Illinois with a lady who really wanted but couldn't afford one. A few years after that, we welcomed a new Philip. Is all this coincidence?

John's chapter 9 makes it clear to us all that Jesus is the Light of the World. It clarifies to me that I need to "see" Jesus without using my eyes. I believe the Holy Spirit has kept me from running into the dark fences built by the world's constant droning in my ear to take my own reins instead of feeling God's presence. Fellow believers, Lent is more than an anniversary; it is a *daily* decade birthday for each of us.

Jeff

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for your saving grace revealed to us through your only begotten Son in whom we believe, even though we have not seen, whose sacrifice we feel even though we have not touched the wound, and whose teachings help us to look outward spiritually this and every day. Amen.