



## Ask, Father James:

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### “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam” (John 9:7)

Jesus says to the man born blind, “go and wash in the pool of Siloam” (John 9:7). The Christian heritage of praying and washing with holy water and getting washed with baptism water is somehow tied to this command of Jesus. The word “Siloam” means sent, as is pointed out in John 9:7. He was sending him on a mission. He was sending him to carry out a particular work for a specific purpose. Hence, this sending is crucial. We all need to heed Jesus’ call on us to go wash.

As disadvantageous as physical blindness may be, there is an even more dreadful blindness: spiritual blindness, the lack of spiritual sight. The Pharisees were spiritually blind. They could not see Jesus as the light of the world. Not to accept Christ is to live in darkness. This man was not previously religious as he was in darkness – But when he came into the light; that is, knowledge of Jesus (after washing) – he worshipped Jesus (v. 38). Spiritual blindness shuts out spiritual realities. Even with perfect eyesight, 20-20 vision, we can be blind to truth, to the meaning of being a Christian, and to spiritual realities. This type of blindness is more deadly than lack of physical vision. As the scripture says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

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