

## Reflection for March 15, 2023

### “It’s Miracle Salve Man” – Inspired by John 9:1-12, 18-41

Over the years the English language is continually bombarded with what many would say, “affronts to good literary form.” I know it used to drive my dad bonkers when one of us would come home with a new word or phrase. Hey that’s mint was one I can remember. “Mint?” Dad would retort, “what the heck does that mean?” I would respond, “it means cool or fab.” And dad would say, “fab?”

My dad was of that generation who was serious about vocabulary. Words were words, they should be kept unspoiled, don’t mess with them! The English language was sophisticated. It was art!

Thankfully my dad missed the generation of “As If,” the slang expression for, “you have to be joking, no way, that’s not possible.” “As if,” your son says when you enquire whether he intends to study for his physics exam. “As if,” your daughter replies when you ask her if she plans to be back by 11PM with the car. As if, you have to be joking.

Poor dad would have had an anaphylactic shock if he knew that xerox and google were now actual words in Webster’s dictionary (not that he would have a clue what google was). And the latest response by many when they receive a compliment, “no worries.” Where did that originate? Everyone says it now. “Thanks for lunch Joe, it was good.” “No worries,” replies Joe. “Thanks for letting us know you got home safely,” I tell my daughter Lisa. “No worries, Dad” she says.

Expressions change with the times. It seems to be normal. How many others I wonder do you remember? Well, I would like to offer up a new one this morning, **“It’s Miracle Salve Man.”** That would be a great response to those that would question the impossible transformation through love in action. **“It’s Miracle Salve Man.”**

That’s what Jesus offered the blind man he encountered in the Jerusalem street. Jesus gave him the light of the world. He opened the man’s eyes to possibility, opened them to hope. He told the man he was not a sinner, someone who should be shunned. As he placed mud on the man’s eyes, Jesus gave him Miracle Salve, assurance that he was cherished, important, valued. What a gift!

How is it that blindness can be reversed the Jews wondered incredulously? Surely this is impossible? This man, and his parents too, sinned against God. Why else would he be blind?

Well, you are missing the point says Jesus. **“I came into this world so that those who do not see may see.”** I came in peace and with a generous heart to be a witness to God’s love. I came to spread “Miracle Salve,” the gift of transformation for those that are open to it. Everyone who is open to the spirit’s presence will receive generosity and be held in compassion. Everyone who understands we are all **one** in this realm, we are all equal, we are all children of the creator will see.

Those who desire wealth and positions of authority, those who belittle the lame and weak, those who cast shame on the poor and disparage the sick will remain blind. They do not see the truth of God’s wisdom. They will not be bathed in God’s love. That is because they have not yet opened their eyes to God’s radiant light.

And open their eyes some will not. It seems as if super-strong permanent glue has been applied to the underside of their eyelids. One wonders if even Miracle Salve can open them.

**“I have the right to do anything I wanna do. I’m the President of the United States,”** says Mr. you know who. <sup>1</sup> From president Netanyahu, **“We are going to fulfil our promise that there will be no Palestinian state. This place belongs to us,”**<sup>2</sup> In the Ukraine, Russian president Putin is apparently interested in moving peace talks forward, **if the Ukraine gives up much of its territory**

---

<sup>1</sup> [Trump Declares, ‘I Have the Right To Do Anything I Want’](#), accessed March 14, 2026

<sup>2</sup> [Israel’s Netanyahu says ‘there will be no Palestinian state’ | Israel-Palestine conflict News | Al Jazeera](#), accessed March 14, 2026

## **Russia now occupies and if it agrees to reduce the size of its military and abandon its hopes of joining NATO.<sup>3</sup>**

What exists beyond our outrage at the bullying, coercion and military threats, the heartbreaking news of more deaths and displacements, the seemingly unending tragedy and chaos? Is the prospect of reconciliation and peace among adversaries a foolish dream?

Jesus didn't think so and I don't believe he was foolish. Perhaps on his human side somewhat naïve, but that was not a deterrent. He didn't just apply his Miracle Salve to the blind man, he offered it to the outcast, the unwanted, the despised. He offered it to everyone and anyone. He raised new promise from the ashes of oppression.

**In today's Gospel reading Jesus said, "I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see."** He says a similar thing in the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free those who are oppressed,***

In his messaging Jesus intended to bring hope into a broken world. He did that with patience, peace, understanding, empathy, and forgiveness. And in his ministry, he healed through his unconditional love. We have the same opportunity through what I have been calling "**miracle salve.**"

A traveller and his dog were clearly needy. I saw them in the IGA parking lot the other day. The man had a hand out for change and I gave him what I had on me, a meager \$5. He beamed back at me, Thank- You with a warm smile. I forgot what else I heard but he was indeed grateful. I could have responded, **no worries, "Its Miracle Salve Man."**

The next person to come into the Bargain Bin and ask for some free warm clothing will be graciously asked to take what they need. I expect they will be grateful when they leave. Perhaps we should ask the BB executive to institute a new salutation, **no worries, "Its Miracle Salve Man."**

A few minutes from now in our Mission Stories time Louise is going to be speaking to you about P.I.E. Day. I won't steal her thunder now, so I will say only that PIE Day is about recognizing the importance of inclusivity in our church. Specifically, PIE Day is about doing something explicit to recognize our welcoming of LGBTQ2+ individuals in our COF. Miracle Salve does that, removing any blinders we may have to being an affirming people of God, and opening our eyes to diversity.

**"It's Miracle Salve Man,"** the tenacity of Jesus' to keep knocking on locked doors. His unwavering commitment, not just to preach good news to the poor, but to preach justice and right relations to the stubborn, corrupt and ego driven. His relentless will to affect change where change seems impossible.

Jesus left us with a challenge. Spread my Miracle Salve wherever you can. That is how justice comes into a hurting world. That is kin-dom living.

By the way, I happen to think with time, Jesus' Miracle Salve can dissolve even the most stubborn adhesive from the eyelids of those that would scoff at our efforts.

**Because It's Miracle Salve Man!**

Thanks for listening this morning, Amen

---

<sup>3</sup> [Putin backs US plan for ending Ukraine war as Trump gives Kyiv deadline to accept - BBC News](#), accessed March 14, 2026