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Clarifying Our Vision: Asking God for a Second Blessing

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Jesus performed many miracles throughout his three-year public ministry. When Jesus intervened in the lives of people throughout the Mediterranean region, they were often healed, restored, cleansed, fed or helped through his first blessing. These people did not need a second blessing from him, because the first blessing proved to be sufficient for their lives. However, there is a story of a man who needed a second blessing from our Lord and Savior. When Jesus restored the blind man's sight, the text says: "And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees walking (Mark 8:24)." Jesus placed his hands on the man a second time and he "was restored, and saw every man clearly (Mark 8:25)." The scriptures teach us that God is perfect (Psalm 18:30); therefore, Jesus, divinity wrapped in humanity, the Word that became flesh (John 1:14) did not make mistakes. Theologians have suggested that the

blind man's human perfections (e.g., he may have wanted to see trees instead of people or he may have imagined that people look like trees) prevented him from fully appreciating the blessing that he received. After all, the blind man had not seen the world prior to Jesus. It was only when the blind man claimed his first blessing (e.g., his sight) and asked Jesus to clarify his vision (e.g., he needed a second blessing) that he was fully able to appreciate the magnitude of the blessing that was bestowed upon him. Everyone has received at least one blessing from the Lord. We've been blessed with the gift of life, health and a reasonable portion of strength. God has blessed some of us with a vision to pursue a new job in the city or in another state, to begin a business, to enter into a new relationship or to close an existing one. Essentially, when we prayed about a problem or asked God for an answer,

God blessed us with an answer or a solution that we were able to understand. However, like the blind man, God's vision of success for some of our lives has become a bit blurry. For example, we're reluctant take the blessing of a new job because the environment is unfamiliar to us. We're reluctant to embrace the blessing of a new relationship because of negative experiences in previous one. In short, we've received an initial blessing and vision of success from the Lord, but, but now we need God to clarify it.

During this Lenten season, let us thank God for His initial and manifold blessings in our lives. Let us also pray for a second blessing of clarity and restoration so that we may be what God intends for us to be.