



Fourth Week of Lent: Breaking Rules to Do Good

(Cycle A)

Jesus heals on the sabbath
Photo: preventing blindness in South Sudan.Sprague

After you've used these Guides, give us your feedback with a short survey: <https://rb.gy/tp306m>

<p>Opening Prayer</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, you healed a blind man on the sabbath! You showed us that God's love is not limited by laws and regulations. Help us to see beyond the darkness imposed by our own rules and religious structures. Liberate us from the blindness that clouds our relationship with God and distances us from our sisters and brothers. You are the Light of the World! Amen</p>
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>The Pharisees condemn Jesus for working on the sabbath when he heals a blind man. They look for every possible technicality to deny the miracle that had taken place. They would rather find a way to insult the man and to exclude his parents than acknowledge the power of God's love made manifest before them in Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>Sharing our Stories</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share of a time when you experienced a conflict between religious rules and God's love.? How did you handle it? 2. Can you recall a time in your life when you were blind to your own blindness? What helped you "see"?
<p>Gospel Reading</p>	<p>Read the Gospel for Fourth Sunday of Lent (John 9:1-41)</p>
<p>Sharing our Faith</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you think it was like for the Pharisees to encounter Jesus? 2. What does it mean to say that our sin is shown by our failure to acknowledge our own blindness? 3. Jesus broke the rules by performing a work of healing on the sabbath. What is it like to face gossip and condemnation when responding to the call of conscience to do what is right, even when it breaks some rule? 4. What do you think Fr. Richard Rohr means by saying, "Learn and obey the rules very well, so you will know how to break them properly."
<p>Going Forth</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray: Spend 15-20 minutes each day to meditate on how your vision is limited by being part of a particular religion, political party, or social group. 2. Learn more: Read about Fr. John Barth's ministry to blind in South Sudan 3. Share the Journey: help Fr. Barth to provide treatment for blindness prevention and rehabilitation in South Sudan



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