

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

March 17, 2021

Pastor Tom began to tell us the story of St. Patrick but left the rest of the story for next week!

John 9: 26 - 41

26 Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? 27 He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? 28 Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. 30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. 31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. 32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. 33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. 34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. 39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. 40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Verse 26

Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

*The Jewish leaders are interrogating the blind man, looking for answers.

*Satan uses the Doubt Strategy to keep us from trusting what God does. The story in Genesis 3 is a good example of this. He goes through steps to

get Eve to doubt God's Word by repeating what God said, then places doubt in Eve's mind and finally twists God's Words.

*The Devil is also known for making ugly things look good, even though they are still ugly. He will twist and rewrite God's Words and makes us doubt what God says. He teases us with visions of goodness enough to get us to waver away from the Truth.

*In the story from John, the Jews want a human answer for a divine act. But God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts

Verse 27

He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?

*The blind man's response shows he is very steadfast in what happened. He states the facts each time they ask. Finally, he wants to know if they are interested in becoming one of Jesus' disciples because they ask so much.

*There are 3 responses to the Gospel when it is presented to people:

1. Some people accept Jesus the very first time they hear the Gospel.
2. Most people say they had to hear the Gospel multiple times before they accepted it.
3. The majority of people will refuse to believe their whole life long.

Matthew 7:13

3 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

*Many will go the broad, easy way, never listening or making a decision. But few will respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Tom commented on the urgent time of opportunity to get the Gospel out to people and the amazing new opportunities we have had during the COVID times: our church services have been viewed in New York and Florida to name a couple places. He also shared Gertie Ross' outreach to others and its effect on people even now and probably more in the future.

Verses 28 and 29

Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.

*The Jewish leaders insult the blind man by calling him a disciple of Jesus. Then they puffed themselves up by saying that they were followers of Moses and that they knew that God spoke to Moses.

*They believed in God but the only way to God is through Jesus Christ. (I am the Way, the Truth and the Life)

*You can talk to God all day long but if you want to be a Christian you need to teach and believe that Jesus is Way. We hear a lot of "God Talk" from feel good preachers who want to keep you happy, coming back and bringing in money.

Verses 30 through 33

The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. 31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. 32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. 33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

1 Corinthians 1:27

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

*The blind beggar was just a regular guy; he had no schooling in theology but now he is besting the Scribes with his arguments about who Jesus is.

Pastor Tom related to this in that many preachers have advanced degrees in theology or divinity but he became a preacher through the course of study. The devil messes with his head at times saying who do you think you are to call yourself a preacher. Even at Annual Conference when rules to vote are read, he feels less than qualified to be there.

*It is a good idea to memorize 1 Corinthians 1:27 to battle the devil and don't ever compare yourself to others!

Verse 34

They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

*These Scribes said the blind man was a sinner so he couldn't possibly teach them anything (how pious!)

*Then they proceed to throw the man out of the synagogue, shunned and ostracized.

Verses 35 through 38

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

*So after this poor man was kicked out of the church, Jesus came looking for him. Amazing!

[Note in my Bible says: God is always looking for man but man is not always looking for God]

This physical healing the man experienced turns into a spiritual healing as well. Now the man 'sees' (physically and spiritually) and worshipped Jesus.

Verse 39

And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

*This verse illustrates the 3rd response to the Gospel mentioned earlier; those people who never come to the Truth but will be judged.

Matthew 7:21 - 23

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

*Having free will to choose as we want means that some people who think they are 'sighted' will be blind to the Gospel message.

Verses 40 and 41

And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Pastor Tom asked us to think on this verse for next week.

*What if someone had never heard the salvation message? They would have no sin in God's eyes. But if you say you can see (or know it all) then your sin remains.

"Erin Go Braugh"

"Ireland Forever"

Additional note:

The New Living Translation expresses verses 37 - 41 this way:

37 "You have seen him," Jesus said, "and he is speaking to you!"

38 "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

39 Then Jesus told him, ["I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind."

40 Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, "Are you saying we're blind?"

41 "If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty," Jesus replied. "But you remain guilty because you claim you can see."