

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

March 3, 2021

John 9: 8 - 12

8 The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? 9 Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. 10 Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? 11 He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. 12 Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

Pastor Tom used his exemplary technology skills to present a video on the Pool of Siloam. To see this video go to:

Pool of Siloam - jerusalemexperience.com

You will see a man in a white hat with black band around it. Click on this tour of the Pool of Siloam.

In a quick review of last week's verse on the dust and spit Jesus made, Pastor Jon added thoughts from Genesis 2:7 when God made man from the dust of the earth. Jesus also had the power to create sight in the blind man using the dust of the earth.

Verse 8

The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

*The word 'neighbors' used here brings up thoughts of how we mostly know all of our neighbors who live around us. This blind man also had neighbors around him all his life. Maybe some of them were even related to him. So there would have been no doubt that they knew who he was and that he was blind from birth.

*The prevailing question then is not if this is the guy, but how did he become healed from the blindness.

(We know some of these 'how questions' ourselves...for example, How is Irene still at Richland Health and Rehabilitation?)

*Also this man's livelihood was that he was a beggar as we had assumed last week.

Verse 9

Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.

*So even though these neighbors knew who this man was, some said he just looked like the blind man. Don't you think they'd know what he looks like? The once blind man verified to them, I am the one who was blind.

*Note: He would not have known what any of those neighbors looked like but he probably knew them by their voices. Do you think their voices matched what they looked like to the blind man?

*There will always be those who question an act of God, even when they have seen the evidence like these neighbors.

*Another example was Sherri's doctor years ago. Even though he did not find a tumor where there should have been one, he did not think it could be an act of God. Perhaps it was a misdiagnosis or some other kind of mistake. They look for a rational explanation. But God doesn't act in our rational thinking limits. Therefore, there will always be things we cannot explain. God things.

*But some people will not believe because they don't even believe in God or in what He can or cannot do. They don't understand that God is All-powerful.

???*Especially the Pharisees - they did not want Jesus to take their power away.

*Bible Believing Christians believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven. This theology will separate people. Some see God in an abstract, vague way. So when you speak Jesus as a personal Savior, you separate people.

Pastor Tom then related a conversation at the last Ministerium Meeting: He talked about the evil that we see today like none else. Another person present asked what did he mean. As if he did not understand Tom's statement. Pastor Joe Stains offered that we are not to be a people of hate but a people of love. We must practice loving people, praying for people. Tom told them that we need to be sharing this thought from the pulpits. Jesus even said that the devil is the father of lies. It's like the source of a

river, just a little trickle. But like a spring that is then added to by other small tributaries, a river soon grows. Lies also have a source (the devil) and they gain momentum from other lies until they are finally chaos downstream. We are feeding the lies, adding to them, if we do not tell the truth from our pulpits, upholding the infallible WORD OF GOD.

And in nearly 25 years that Pastor Tom has preached at Mt. Olive, he has always asked his listeners to make sure he can back up everything he says with scripture. They must check it out in the Bible for themselves.

Verse 10

Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

* Here is the 'how' question. How did the blind man get his sight? Explain it to us.

Pastor Tom recalled how someone asked him when he got saved, what he got saved from.

Verse 11

He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.

*The man gave them the simple facts without much detail. He just told them what he knew.

*Referring to the same King Hezekiah that was in the video about the Pool of Siloam and the subject of discussion recently in the adult Sunday School Class: he was a righteous king. ???

Verse 12

Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

*Then the neighbors want to know where the healing man was now. The blindman never saw Jesus! He just did what he was told and went to the Pool, washed and he could see. But Jesus wasn't there at the Pool.

*People have said, "If you can show me your Jesus, then I'll believe!" But remember the precious verse in Hebrews 11. Belief requires some step of faith on our part.

Pastor Tom then unmuted the conference callers.

Discussion was held on how the blindman got to the Pool.

Two possibilities came up: He could have had help from friends or others OR it is known that the blind have other senses that are heightened. God gives extra grace to the other senses. He could have known the way to the Pool by feeling the walls, or stones in the streets, sounds of the people nearby, smells of cooking or other things in the environment.

Goodnight to all!