

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

February 24, 2021

John 9: 1 -7

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. 4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. 6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Verse 1

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

*Jesus has left the Temple after His debate with the Jewish leaders as to who He was. Now Jesus is walking by and sees this blind man. Things happen for reasons which we cannot always understand. Jesus knew the blind man was there; He did not pass by this way by chance or coincidence.

*How many times does God put people in our paths that need a touch of Jesus? It is truly divine intervention to have these encounters with certain people. There are folks out there who need the love of Jesus. (Pastor Tom used the example of the young lady at Giant Eagle who he has become a prayer warrior for)

*Also we learn that the man had been blind from birth until now in his adulthood. (verse 21 will confirm this). There was no welfare system during this time so he probably had to beg for a living. There were also many

people that could testify that he was truly blind because they had seen him grow up with this problem; no questions, this was not a made up disability.

Verses 2 and 3

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

*Jesus' disciples ask a question that is still being asked today:

Is it the sin of the man that caused his blindness or the sin of his parents?

*There are problems that we cause ourselves:

If we drink everyday, then we could get a liver disease.

If we are overweight, then we are making our body work harder than it should

*But then again: Bad things happen to good people. They just happen. We live in a sinsick, fallen world. Things can happen that are not a result of our actions. Sometimes even righteous people get sick. Easton is a good example: He did nothing to cause all his problems in his short life so far.

*If all we face is calm waters in life, it would be easy to be a Christian. We all have faced challenges which challenge our faith. But challenges can also define our faith. And when our faith is defined (strengthened) we have an even stronger testimony to tell others about God's care for us. But if our life testimony doesn't match our faith, then our testimony is not very impactful to others. How many of us want to believe that God grades on the curve? Those challenges will always be there. How we deal with them will determine how good your testimony is.

*Even though we don't always understand them, there is always a purpose to everything that comes from God. For example, this pandemic is certainly baffling to us, but God may have a purpose in it.

Maybe God is preparing us for a day when worshipping Christ becomes a criminal act. But we have worked at honing the technology of filming services, having Bible Study on conference phone calls. Perhaps God is

preparing His people for a time when church will not be allowed. But God has prepared avenues for the church to continue.

Verse 4

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

*Here we get a glimpse of God's timeline. This story took place in AD 32 and Jesus would be crucified in AD 33. So we can conclude that Jesus has only about one year left to minister on earth. In the 3 year period that Jesus had to minister on earth he radically changed religion and changed the world. Jesus says his ministry is short.

*In reality, all of our ministries are short!! (Pastor Tom mentioned that he and Sherri may only have a little over a year left at Mt. Olive). So we all have a timeline and cannot slow down in the end stretch.

Verse 5

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

*This is one of the great 'I AM' statements. Think of the irony of Jesus, the Light of the World, giving a blind man, living in darkness, the light of sight!

*Wouldn't it have been amazing to have seen the miracles of Jesus?

He calmed the sea, He fed 5000, and He healed the blind man and yet there were those who saw the miracles and still missed Jesus!

*How could angels fall away from God? How will others follow Satan after the 1000 Year Reign? How do people still choose eternal death over eternal life?

*Remember - People will see Jesus in us through our testimonies which includes our words and our actions.

Verse 6 and 7

When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

*The method of this healing is hard for us to understand. Jesus could have just spoken words to make the healing happen like when He spoke and the sea was calmed or maybe something He has done for us. But there are times when Jesus stretches our faith, causing us to wait for a healing for a long time. Remember though that only 100% healing comes with our death in this physical world. That is why it is important for us to be spiritually ready for that 100% healing.

*In the case of the blind man, it takes faith to be healed with spit and dirt.

May the Lord watch between me and thee,

While we are absent, one from the other.
