

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 64

School to Pray For:

Fallston Middle School

Devotional Reading:

Who Sinned?-John 9:1-5

Our discussion this week starts with an important question, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” I think it’s human nature to want to know the reason for everything, and if we’re being honest, to be able to assign blame for things that go wrong. This unnamed man was born blind and Jesus’ disciples want to know who to blame for the bad thing that has come into this man’s life.

Trouble (or whatever word you want to use for “bad things”) comes into all our lives in one of three ways, all related to sin:

1) Our own sin-We disobey God and are responsible for bringing trouble into our lives (you drink and drive and crash your car); **2) Other people’s sin**-Someone else disobeys God and this brings trouble into our lives (someone else drinks and drives and crashes into your car); **3) Original Sin**-When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the apple, sin and death entered the world, breaking God’s perfect order and bringing trouble to everyone (sickness and natural disasters fall into this category).

Back to the story at hand; in verse 3 Jesus tells His disciples, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” leaving us with Category 3-Original Sin. Sickness can come to anyone, at any time. But (my favorite word in the Bible!) God can, and will, turn any trouble into an opportunity for His glory.

Continuing in verse 3, “this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” As we’ll soon see, Jesus will heal this man, and God will be given the glory!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 65

School to Pray For:

Forest Hill Elementary School

Devotional Reading:

Trust and Obey-John 9:6-12

John 9:6-7 *After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.*

Huh. This is a pretty bizarre way to heal someone. And fairly unsanitary! But, when Jesus is offering to heal you, you do what He says. I’ll be honest, I have no idea why Jesus chose to use saliva and mud to heal this man’s vision. It doesn’t seem to be a requirement, as He healed many others in many other ways (He did use saliva at least one other time, see Mark 7:31-37). But we’re losing sight (see what I did there) of the real issue, this man’s obedience. This man put His trust in Jesus and when Jesus gave the man a command (no matter how strange), the man obeyed and was healed. Trust and obey, sounds like a good song title...

In any dealing with God, trust is of paramount importance! We have to trust that God can and will do what He says He’ll do, and then we can obey whatever He tells us to do. When we ask Him for salvation, we are trusting that He can and will save us (He has promised to do so if we ask) and then we can live lives of obedience to Him.

*Trust and obey,
For there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 66

School to Pray For:

Forest Lakes Elementary School

Devotional Reading:

On the Right Path-John 9:13-34

This is the old “can you heal someone on the Sabbath” argument again. Throughout the Gospels Jesus has several run-ins with the Pharisees that center on this same argument. It’s a ridiculous argument and one that shines a pretty bright light on the Pharisees love of the Law and not the one who gave them the Law. Maybe they were right by the letter of the Law, but the heart of God is for healing and restoration so they were miles off the mark in that regard.

The Pharisees drag this man in front of them and question him about Jesus, twice in fact! And if that wasn’t bad enough, they drag his parents into it. All they want to hear is how awful Jesus is, but this man can’t stop telling them about how Jesus healed him! Look at his final remarks to them:

John 9:30-33 *The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”*

As we’ll see, it’s not just this man’s physical eyes that are being opened, but his spiritual “eyes” as well!

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 67

School to Pray For:

Fountain Green Elementary School

Devotional Reading:

’Twas Blind, But Now I See-John 9:35-38

Do you ever long to see God do miraculous things? Things like giving a man who was blind from birth his sight? Let’s think about how strange that must have been for this man, after a lifetime of darkness to all of the sudden be able to see! I know that I long to not just read about them, but actually see God perform miracles.

As I was reading this passage, it occurred to me that there are actually two miracles here: the healing of the man’s blindness and his salvation! Jesus healed his physical blindness as well as his spiritual blindness (more on that tomorrow). I’m ashamed to say that I’ve been blind to the fact that any salvation is a miracle. And this is a miracle that I’ve seen over and over during my lifetime.

Let me be clear here, God is still in the business of physical miracles, as well as spiritual ones! I know that He’s answered our prayers for physical healing for several people in our own congregation. But how epic would it be to see someone regain their sight?! However, the point I’m trying to make (and failing, I think) is that every time someone comes to a saving knowledge of Jesus that a miracle of equally epic proportions happens!

Take some time today and thank God for the miracle of your salvation. We too, were once blind...

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 68

School to Pray For:

George D. Lisby Elementary School

Devotional Reading:

Spiritual Blindness-John 9:39-41

One of the things that has always stood out to me when reading the Gospels is the way Jesus talked to people. He was always gentle with the everyday people He came into contact with. However, He could turn up the heat when He came into contact with the Pharisees and other religious leaders who were leading these people astray. You see, the source of most people's religious education was these religious leaders; it wasn't like our culture where we all can have access to Bibles to read for ourselves and just about any preacher or teacher in the world can be heard on the internet.

This passage concludes with Jesus drawing a line between the two groups: "For judgement I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." The "blind" were the everyday people who relied on the religious leaders for their "sight," but were the only people who were able to see Jesus for who He really was. The Pharisees and religious leaders were "those who see" because they had access to the Scriptures and religious education, but they were so tied up in their religion that they were blinded to the "truth" (Jesus) that stood directly in front of them. Those who were "blind" were able to see Jesus while those who could "see" were unable to!

Jesus gave this blind man physical sight while at the same time revealing the spiritual blindness of the religious leaders. We are all spiritually blind until Jesus opens our eyes, and when He does, we gain true sight!

Thank Him today for opening your eyes!

**GRACE
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**ALL OF OUR PUBLIC
GATHERINGS ARE
CANCELLED UNTIL THE END
OF MARCH**

**OUR SERVICES ARE BEING
POSTED ON FACEBOOK AND
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AND WE'LL GET YOU SIGNED UP!