

BLIND MAN'S HEALING

Monday, February 5

Reading: John 9:1-12

John 9:3 *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

The story of the man born blind is recorded only in John's gospel and it is told in great detail. It is a beautiful story of the progression of faith and witness.

As the disciples look at this blind man they spout a common (though wrong) belief of the day. They believe this man being born blind was the result of sin, either the man's or his parents. Jesus corrects their wrong theology. While suffering is a result of sin in the world, sometimes it occurs so that God may display His power and glory.

The blind man must have begged at the Temple gate for some time since he is well known to the people and even Jesus' disciples. Though Jesus healed several blind men during his ministry, this is the only man who was born blind. Jesus is not just repairing something that was damaged. He is creating something new that had never been there before. Only God can do that!

By putting mud on the blind man's eyes Jesus was doing two things. First, He was giving the man a chance to show his faith through obedience. There were many pools around the Temple, but Jesus tells him to wash in the pool of Siloam which is at the other end of the city. When he obeyed, he received his sight.

The second reason Jesus made mud to heal the man appears to be a deliberate act on Jesus' part to break the manmade Sabbath rules instituted by the Pharisees (9:14). According to their rules, mixing saliva and dirt would be considered work. Jesus was once again asserting that he was "Lord of the Sabbath" (see Mark 2:23-28)

LESSON ONE: "Sin and Suffering." Today the belief that suffering is always a result of sin is still common – even in the church! While the consequences of sin do bring suffering, suffering is not always the result of wrong-doing. Jesus wants us to not focus so much on the cause of the suffering, but on what He can do through it! How do we look at suffering people? Do we look at them cynically (like the disciples) and try to decide whose fault it is? Or do we (like Jesus) see suffering as an opportunity to show God's love and bring Him glory?

LESSON TWO: "Obedience." The blind man obeyed Jesus even though it was not easiest or quickest path to wash his eyes. Do we obey even when it appears another way might be easier? Do we trust Jesus enough to do exactly what He tells us to do?