



March 29, 2020

eyes wide open

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for John and his courage. Thank you for the men and women who pleaded with him to write down this story for future generations. Father, for us Christians who have you in a little box, you know that we can get so judgmental and we can get so critical, would you just pull off the sides of our box and help us see you the way you really are? We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: John 9:1–19

9 As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. 4 While it's daytime, 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." 6 After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. 7 Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means sent). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see. 8 The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him." But the man said, "Yes, it's me!" 10 So they asked him, "How are you now able to see?" 11 He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see." 12 They asked, "Where is this man?" He replied, "I don't know." 13 Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. 15 So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see." 16 Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they

were divided. 17 Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: "What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?" He replied, "He's a prophet." 18 The Jewish leaders didn't believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. 19 The Jewish leaders asked them, "Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. 21 But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He's old enough to speak for himself." 24 Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner." 25 The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see." 26 They questioned him: "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?" 27 He replied, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" 28 They insulted him: "You are his disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't know where this man is from." 30 The man answered, "This is incredible! You don't know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes!..... 33 If this man wasn't from God, he couldn't do this." 34 They responded, "You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?" Then they expelled him.

INTRODUCTION

There are many products we buy, use, and put our confidence in without having all the information or fully understanding how they work. In the Gospel of John, we see a man begin to follow Jesus based on limited information. This man, who was born blind, said he only knew one main thing—and that one thing was enough to make him curious about who Jesus really was.

It's okay to be wrong. It's okay not to know. But it's not okay not to look if there's something to be seen.

QUESTIONS

- 1) What are some things people put full trust in without having all the information?
- 2) Give some examples of proof people would like to have before believing in God.
- 3) Read John 9:1–20 and answer the following questions:
 - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?
 - In verse 2, there was an assumption that sin and suffering were connected. Were you raised to believe that?
 - In verse 3, Jesus said purpose can be found in the lifelong suffering of the blind man. How does it resonate with you that suffering might have a purpose?
 - Similar to the sign from John 5, Jesus seems to violate the Sabbath tradition held by the Pharisees. Why does John continue to mention this?
- 4) Read John 9:24–25. How does what the man said remind you of something that happened in your own life?
- 5) Think of a season of your life that was difficult through no fault of your own. You may be in one currently. Is there something about that season God used (or could use) to shape your faith? If so, what?
- 6) If you became a follower of Jesus as an adult, is there one pivotal circumstance that caused you to turn the corner? If so, what was it?
- 7) In which of these aspects of your faith journey would you like your “eyes opened” more? Explain.
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