

Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources
Spiritual Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

August 20, 2023

Day 1: John 9:1-2

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'

The disciples are not being unfeeling by asking Jesus this question about who sinned. Not really knowing how someone was born with a defect or how someone got ill, it was supposed that maybe a sin by a parent was being visited upon the child. With regard to birth defects today we do not use the term sinned but there is often wonder if the mother ate or drank something that hurt the baby.

Question: How could sin cause blindness?

Challenge: What do you think is the leading cause of children being sick today?

Scripture: Mark 8:17-38

Day 2: John 9:3-5

Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

Jesus responds that the person was not born blind because of past sin. Jesus' comment that the works of God might be revealed in him does not mean that God arranged for the man to be blind. The blindness of the man will be a sign that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus has the prerogatives of God - Jesus is the light of the world and Jesus can give light to whomever He chooses.

Question: Jesus said he is the light of the world. How has Jesus helped you see better?

Challenge: Why do you think bad things happen to good people?

Scripture: Luke 17:10-17

Day 3: John 9:6-7

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

We do not know if the man had ever hoped he would see again, all we know is that he is willing to follow Jesus' instructions to go and wash. We also do not know what he was thinking as he went to the pool. He might have begun to doubt as he walked or he might have begun to pray.

Whatever he thought about, he kept going. Jesus today gives instructions for our healing but too often we do not want to go and even wash (follow His instructions).

Question: Why would Jesus make mud to spread on the man's eyes?

Challenge: On a scale of 1-6 how well do you think you follow Jesus' instructions for living?

Scripture: John 5:2-12

Day 4: John 9:8-10

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?'

It is an interesting response on the part of the others. Instead of shouting, cheering and hugging, the people ask, "How did this happen?" This happens in church when a person has not been to worship for a time and they come back; the response is "Where have you been?" or "Look who's here!" We should greet a person first and ask questions later.

Question: What do you think the man did after he had his sight - do think he stayed a beggar?

Challenge: Think of a time you felt very welcomed - how did you feel welcomed? Think of a time you felt unwelcomed - how did you feel unwelcomed?

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:10-2:5

Day 5: John 9:11-12

He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

The man knew that it was someone called Jesus who had cured him. But he could not tell folks where Jesus was to be found. His story of receiving his sight is a great example of grace. If we ask for God's love we not only receive it but we can now see the world around us better than ever.

Question: Do you think the people wanted something from Jesus and that is why they asked where he was?

Challenge: How do you think you are doing in following Jesus' instructions on how we should live with each other?

Scripture: John 7:1-52

Day 6: John 9:24-25

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'

When repeatedly questioned about how he received his sight and pressed to say that the one who gave him his sight was a sinner, the man stays with what he knows to be true. He knows that only God had the power to give sight and that no one could do what Jesus did unless they were from God. The former blind man may not be able to articulate great theological concepts very well but he knows he can see. He also knew that the others were blind as to who God is and how God was working.

Question: Why would they call Jesus a sinner? See verses 13-16

Challenge: List five things that you do know about Jesus.

Scripture: John 9:1-41