

John 9:4-41
(Isaiah 35:3-6a; Revelation 3:15-22)
“So I Went and Washed and Received My Sight”

Introduction

The story opens with the disciples asking the question that thinking people have asked since the dawn of time: why is there pain and suffering in a world created by a good and loving God? Jesus turns the question on its head by calling his disciples to see the world of pain and suffering through eyes of compassion, not as a theater for posing philosophical questions but as a broken world filled with broken people whom God loves and through whom he desires to make himself known. So Jesus steps into the darkness of this blind man's world and says, As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world (9:5). He then anoints the man's eyes with mud and says, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' So he went and washed and came back seeing (9:7). Can't the story of every disciple of Jesus be summarized in these words: I went and washed and received my sight?

This morning I want us to trace the story of a person being brought out of spiritual darkness into light, out of fear and death into life and peace. You may recognize this story as your own, or you may sense a deep longing for Jesus to meet you along the way and give you the sight you've longed for all your life, the spiritual sight that will finally reveal to you the meaning of your life, that will let you begin to recognize and rejoice in what is good, and true, and lovely. As this man's spiritual sight becomes increasingly acute, the spiritual sight of the religious leaders fails to the point of spiritual blindness.

Here we see five stages on the journey out of darkness into light. And at every stage in the journey, those who love darkness rather than light reject Jesus more stridently and emphatically than before, stumbling in their blindness into ever deepening darkness.

Body

1. We are all in darkness until we meet Jesus, the light of the world (9:4f).
2. Once Jesus begins to heal us, it becomes evident to all who know us (9:8f).
3. We are merely called to bear witness to what God has done for us (9:11f).

4. As we tell our story, we grow in our understanding of who Jesus is: the man called Jesus (9:11), a prophet (9:17), from God (9:33), Lord (9:39).
5. When at last we see Jesus for who he is the light of the world, and the Lord of life we fall down before him in worship (9:39).

Conclusion

What of you? Have you yet met Jesus? Do you realize that, however smart and strong and successful you may be in the ways of the world, the world's ways lead at last to disappointment and death, not to life and peace. All you have sought will fall away at last, and you will end your days groping in darkness for the friendship with God for which you were created, for the loving intimacy you always longed for, but could never find. If only Jesus would anoint your eyes and send you to the pool for healing! He is here today calling to those who realize that they are blind and who long for sight, Come to me and receive your sight! I am the light of the world! If you cry out to him for sight, he'll not reject you're your cry. For Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How do I know that I have received my sight? When I think of Jesus, my heart is filled with gratitude and I cry, Lord, I believe, and I worship him.

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