

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 23
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, & come among us. By your gracious life & death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, & anoint us with your Spirit, for you live & reign with the Father & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Exodus 17:1-7

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground & made mud with the saliva & spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went & washed & came back able to see."... ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, & yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him & obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, & are you trying to teach us?" & they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, & when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, & the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." & he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, & those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this & said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

- Review John 1:1-13, 3:1-21, 5:18-47, 8:12-30; how do they lay the foundation for this story? See *Isaiah 29:18, 35:5, 42:6, 49:6; Daniel 2:22*
 Bonus question how does this compare with *Mark 8:22-26*? What's the symbolism of partial sight?
- What happened to the formerly blind man's commitment during the course of his interrogations? (Clue: Check *verses 11, 17, 33, & 38.*) *Pastor's hint- "Lord" in v38 is like "the Lord your God"*
HT- Thanks, Light on the Lessons for #2, 5! Available <bibleministries.org>

EACH OTHER- Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ

- As we cope with the Corona Virus/Covid19/Wuhan Virus outbreak, where do you see God's people acting faithfully? What do you think they see that their neighbors don't? How do these examples of others' faithfulness inspire your own?
- Go verse by verse through *Psalm 23*. Interpret each metaphor for something concrete you see in your everyday life. For instance, who are the wolves/enemies that surround you, the sheep? What is the banquet set before you? What are the green pastures & still waters in your life?

NEIGHBORS- Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters

- What do you think causes people to be blind to Jesus? How can we help them to see?
- How about a Corona Virus Challenge? Stay in contact with one another in your congregation. Make a phone call, send a text or email, use Facetime (or similar app) & see how one another are doing. Don't leave each other behind. Help each other meet one another's needs (low on groceries or medicine or toiletries?). Make it your goal to reach out to one other person in the congregation (not in your home/family) each day during these restrictions.

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Fourth Sunday in Lent
Series: The Flipside

03.22.20

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Ohhhh...Now I See It
What we can't see coming

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, & the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” & he worshiped him. (vv37-38)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus says, I am the light of the world;
whoever follows me will have the light of life. (*John 8:12*)

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