

## *“Here’s Mud in Your Eye”*

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Tony Schaffner** Ordination -
- B. Friend/Missionary **Dave LeCompte** - *Missions International* Update.
- C. Happy **Pentecost Sunday** - (pente=50) 50 days after Easter.
- D. **3 opportunities for fellowship** - **Baptism** today; **Church potluck** next Sunday at Irv & Melinda’s; Scott & Jennifer Weissi hosting John & Lisa **Gotz** info party also next Sunday
- E. **Intro:** My Title: *“Here’s Mud in your Eye!”* It means, *“Cheers!” “Bottoms up!” “Here’s a toast to you!” “Here’s mud in your eye!”*
  1. It’s exact origin is unknown, some suggestions: It originated when farmers clinked glasses just before plow-time, wishing each other a good season.
  2. Then, I came to the explanation, “this toast may have arisen from the Bible story found in the 9th chapter of the Gospel of John, where *“mud in the eye”* is a medium of healing & well-being, like that beverage that’s about to go down!
  3. So journey with me, back to 1st-century Holy Land & to the **possible roots of this toast.** *“Here’s Mud in your Eye!”*

### II. **HERE’S MUD IN YOUR EYE!**

- A. **A NEW LIGHT ON A DARK SUBJECT!** (1-5)
- B. This is #6 out of the 7 signs/miracles in John.
  1. Jesus performed more miracles related to **giving sight to the blind** more than any other miracle.<sup>1</sup>
  2. This was prophesied about Messiah when he would come.
    - a) Is.35:5 **Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.** (Also, Is.29:18; 42:7)
  3. Jesus came to **restore the sight** of human beings who had become **blinded to the things of God.**
- C. Let’s first crawl behind this guys dark eyelids. It must have been terrifying as a kid. Sensing something in your room at night, afraid. Felt ostracized. Kids playing outside. Your life felt like hide & seek...except you were always “it”! What could I have done in the womb? Kick mom too hard? What trouble can you get in pre-womb experience?

<sup>1</sup> Shepherd’s Notes; pg.49

Other boys were talking about careers & providing for their own. I guess I'll be a beggar so I don't always have to lean on my father to care for me. I am ashamed, it's disgraceful, but I seek not to burden my family forever. Why do some abuse this system, if I were well I wouldn't beg, I'd work. The best spot was at the Temple. The best day was Sabbath. Teachers & students would walk by & have heightened compassion going in to be holy. But they also would be asking their rabbi questions. Most often I was the subject matter. I hated hearing the question, "who sinned?" As if I couldn't hear their questions. They didn't care. They would talk **about** me, never **to** me. Then one day...a rabbi & his students, the ugly question again! And I hate when they would only give 2 options. I would get so angry inside. But this teacher was different. He knew my parents sin & my sin. And this didn't come up on His radar. I had hope. That in fact God was good, & this was **in** His will, & somehow God was going to use this as something beautiful! Then I heard him squat down in front of me. I heard spit. Hands moving the dust of the earth. It reminded me of the God of Genesis creating man out of the dust of the earth. Then I was startled when He touched me. You could say, "I *really* didn't see that coming!" :) Then instructions to go & wash. I went, I walked, I found the pool. I knew exactly how many steps it was. I cupped my hands & washed. Ouch, such brightness, I guess? Water? They say it's bluish/green but I've never witnessed color. I've tasted an orange but never seen orange. Never seeing shapes, colors, light, I'm overwhelmed, stunned. I hope it lasts. I hope it doesn't go away.<sup>2</sup>

#### D. (2) **Be careful not to look beyond the blind man!**

##### 1. They asked out of **curiosity** not **compassion!**

- a) Like *medieval theologians* who argued over how many angels could fit on the head of a pin, these **fledgling seminarians** were moved to *theological controversy* rather than *tenderhearted compassion*.<sup>3</sup> [which do you get more excited about?]
- b) **Jesus** *saw* a man; the **disciples** *asked* about him.
- c) To the **disciples** the blind man was the occasion for *theological speculation*; To **Jesus** he was a human being to be *pitied & helped*.
- d) **Even beggars are dear to God!** [Practical help for a transient, or a homeless person: give them a word of encouragement; just visit with them to know someone cares; a meal; \$; a gentle touch/comfort if appropriate; a blanket/pillow/other need(ask); a listening ear; what's your story? How can you best be helped?]

#### E. The question reflected a common belief of the day.

1. This was really a self-revelation of "their" God. **Does your God "act" like this?**  
**Do you act this way to your children?** (If 1 child messes up, you punish the other 1?)

<sup>2</sup> Adapted & added to, Mark Driscoll Podcast

<sup>3</sup> Chuck Swindoll

- F. Many parents have asked *this very same question*, when they've had a child born with a disability?
1. That may make sense with the Chinese/**Taoism's**, **Yin/Yang**, "*for every action there is a reaction*"; or **Islam's** "*God willed it*" philosophy (i.e. tsunami); or the **rabbis** taught that no one died unless there had been sin. Even a child could sin in the womb, they suggested, or even in the preexistent state prior to conception.<sup>4</sup>
  2. The **disciples** held this common view, that was as old as the philosophizing of **Eliphaz, Bildad, & Zophar** (book of Job).
  3. But Jesus here **refutes** this entire system of thought in vs.3.
- G. (3) *That the works of God should be revealed in him!*
1. (NIV) *That the work of God might be displayed in his life.*
  2. *This man is here, for God to work in His life, in order to glorify Jesus!*
  3. *Some people are sick/hurt from:* sin(accident drunk driving); from their parents sin(crack babies); from adam sins; heredity diseases are passed down; & some just because...& we don't know why(Job).
  4. *What's your handicap? You were born **what?** so the power of God could be seen in **you**. What's **your** obstacle, impairment, hinderance, disadvantage?*
    - a) *Where do you find **yourself** weak, so He can show **Himself** strong?*
    - b) *Where do you find **yourself** utterly useless, where God wants to make you **incredibly** useful?*
  5. *Ok, so then God always heals like this man? Obviously not. Then how does God receive glory in someone, if He **doesn't** heal them? Ask **Joni Erickson Toda** who still sits paralyzed. Ask **Paul the apostle** who had to live w/his thorn in the flesh. Ask **Job** who's children didn't come back to life. Ask **Pete & Marcia Falconeri** in our fellowship, if God has been glorified in **any** way though **Morgan** who hasn't been fully healed yet. [She has **A.L.L.** Acute lymphocytic Leukemia; her journal had Job 5:9, **He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted**] *lim-fuh-sih-tik**
- H. (4) *When is He talking about? "the night is coming when no one can work"?*
1. *When the consummation of the age takes place.*
  2. *Meanwhile, we are **chasing daylight!** We must be **combating evil & doing good** in the name of Christ!*
- I. (5) This verse is key on which aspect of Jesus' work that it points to.
1. This theme is continued from 8:12. *Here it receives demonstration!*
  2. *What does he reveal about Himself using it here? There is **no sight** w/o **light!***

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<sup>4</sup> Shepherd's Notes; pg.50

- J. I wish instead of always wanting to *escape* this world, we'd own *the Jesus model*, as long as I'm in the world I am the light of the world! [Our prayer, as long as You have me here Lord, let me shine brightly!]
- K. **THE HEALING!** (6,7)
- L. (6) Putting clay on the man's eyes Jesus encouraged him to obey & wash on the Sab.(14)
1. Sometimes the Lord **irritates** us before He **illuminates** us.<sup>5</sup>
- M. Here's what we wonder(w/hands raised)...Jesus, Jesus, why clay? why spittle? why that pool specifically?
- N. The *mud exercise* was *not medicinal* but served as a means for the blind man to put his faith to a severe test. Would he obey? [cf. Naaman's healing]
1. This sign pointed to Jesus as the giver of spiritual sight!
- O. (7) *Went & washed, & came back seeing* -
1. The clay now washed away, awakened: *wonder, hope, expectation, & faith.*
  2. It was a **ladder** by which he climbed **from the pit of despair to the mount of joy.**
- P. **NOSEY NEIGHBORS!** (8-12)
- Q. Hey wait, you look different. *We gave money to you & you're not blind? Were you ever blind?* I think it's him?
- R. *A Man called Jesus* - has a wonderful ring to it.
1. Yet, wait & watch this little seed of knowledge of Jesus, sprout before the chapters end. [Homework: find the other terms he uses, & note there development]
- S. **End Story:** Wycliff Bible translators *Bob and Jan Smutherman* were assigned to the **Macuna people** of *southeast Colombia, South America*. Progress was going well in putting the Bible into the Macuna language. The chief's son was engaged as the language helper. Each portion of the Scripture had to be checked and double-checked for meaning and clarity. After 5 years of labor, the Gospel of John was being finalized for publication. Gathered together to hear the Word of God, the tribe sat patiently. **Beginning at John 9:1**, the son read about Jesus' encounter with **the man born blind**. When he got to the verse where Jesus says that this man was born blind "in order that the works of God might be put on display," the old chief stood to his feet. Requiring silence by his uplifted right hand, he said, "*We must stop killing our babies.*" To a people steeped in animism, the normal process was to take their **deformed babies** to a desolate place. There the babies were deserted and exposed until dead. **The implications of the gospel became shockingly clear upon hearing of a better way.** Philip L. McKown
1. *What works of God might be put on display from your life this week?*

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<sup>5</sup> Warren Wiersbe; With The word; pg.695.