

Beauty for Ashes | Part 3

Spit, Mud & Ash

NOTES ARE IN APP

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SERIES: Beauty for Ashes

ASH: A BURNED LIFE?

Define:

Ashes: the powdery residue left after the burning of a substance

Ashes: the worthless remains after something valuable has been destroyed - Dave Patterson

A BURNED LIFE? ASH

- What is the ash in your life?
- The loss of a dream?
- The loss of a loved one?
- A chronic sickness or disease
- A closed business
 - Can't hire help
 - Can't afford to hire anyone
- Political Ashes
- A broken relationship?

- A broken past?
- What is the ash in your life?
- ASH... Dust

Isaiah 61:1-4, 7

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
 because the Lord has anointed me
 to proclaim good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim freedom for the captives
 and release from darkness for the prisoners,[a]
 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
 and the day of vengeance of our God,
 to comfort all who mourn,
 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
 to bestow on them a crown of beauty
 instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning,
 and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
 They will be called oaks of righteousness,
 a planting of the Lord
 for the display of his splendor.
 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins
 and restore the places long devastated;
 they will renew the ruined cities
 that have been devastated for generations.

Beauty for Ashes in our lives...

TODAY: Spit, Mud & Ash

Q: Where is God in the Ash/Dust?

John 9 - A man living in ASH - blind from birth - Pool of Siloam

Pool of Siloam (Sai-low-am)

- Discovered in 2004 - broken sewer pipe
- Poop reveals something beautiful (another sermon)...
- Poop/Spit...

John 9:1-3, 6-7

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him...

6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. 7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Jesus complicates the miracle. !?!

- Why?
- **We don’t know**
 - Miracles Mixed with Spit, Mud & Ash

I’ll take the miracle... save the spit, mud & ash please!

1.) Sometimes God uses the process of spit, mud & ash

Sometimes the light at the end of the tunnel is just the light of an oncoming train -
Robert Lowell

Bible Centurion:
I want “Jesus, just say the word”
but I got spit, mud & ash

Sometimes it's not ours to know, it's ours to trust

2.) Jesus is IN the process of the Spit, Mud & Ash - sometimes it is even His

- Nothing that comes out of the mouth of God is bad

Permissible Will vs Perfect Will

- **Free Will =**
 - Possibility for Love
 - Possibility for Selfishness

1 Thessalonians 5:18

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- Thankful **IN** all circumstances, not always **FOR** all circumstances
- Jesus can work in quick, big & fast ways but He often works in ways that CHANGE US RATHER THAN SIMPLY DELIVER A MIRACLE.

We can't see through the Spit, Mud & Ash

That's when we LISTEN TO HIS VOICE

Spit, Mud & Ash ***mixed with our Obedience*** = Sight & Healing

3.) Stop resisting the Spit, Mud & Ash and get to the obedience

The longer we resist the spit, mud & ash, the longer we delay the miracle

2 Kings 5:9-14

9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be

cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage. 13 Naaman’s servants went to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed!’” 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean...

OBEDIENCE in the spit, mud & ash leads to healing (2 Kings)

OBEDIENCE in the spit, mud & ash leads to seeing (John 9)

4.) The process is about who we are becoming not just the final miracle

Keep reading post miracle...

John 9: 8-9

8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

Greek - Ego eimi (ego aimee)

- Ego eimi “I am” - Jesus uses this phrase of himself 45 times in John
- Bible scholars believe this is a reference to Jesus’ - I am
- “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”
- He was the same man, but an altogether **different man**.
- **“I AM the man”**
 - Represents Him finding/journeying into a new identity in Christ

John 9: 10-11

10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

11 He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

5.) Jesus is Glorified through us in the spit, mud & ash of life

JESUS IS GLORIFIED IN SPIT, MUD & ASH OBEDIENCE

This man's miracle points to a bigger picture of salvation for all...

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!"
And they threw him out.

Spiritual Blindness

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said,[a] "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

Where is God in the Spit, Mud & Ash of life?

He is working MIRACLES IN THE MIDDLE of it all

God is **always doing more**
in the Spit, Mud & Ash **than what we can see**

That is why **obedience** matters so much -
SO WE CAN be healed & **SEE!**

AND **HIS GLORY** CAN BE ON DISPLAY IN OUR LIFE

WHERE IS GOD?

- He is working miracles in the middle of your spit, mud & ash
- STOP RESISTING THE SPIT, MUD & ASH
- OBEDIENCE Leads to SEEING
- HIS GLORY IS THE RESULT