

## GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (October 1, 2023)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

I can be so impatient. I want quick answers, quick results, quick fixes. This isn't just with things ... it's with challenges in my life. I look for a shortcut to fix a health issue, a financial issue, a quirk in my personality, a relationship I'm in, a spiritual need I have. And I'm not much better with others. Someone shares a problem they're facing and I think up a fast acting three-step solution.

It's become increasingly clear to me, God has patiently emphasized, that people are more complicated than cars, computers, or cats (I was searching for a third "c"). When I'm given the privilege of talking with someone about a problem they're struggling with I need to 1) pray, 2) trust that God is, and will be, the source of any lasting change, 3) recognize my contribution may be one piece in a much larger process. This morning is the third of four Sunday teachings on evangelism. Do we listen to the Holy Spirit, and then do what He asks us to do, even if it isn't the biggest, or (in our eyes) the most important aspect of the work God is doing in someone's life? More and more ... I hope I do, you too. I want to grow in patience, in my trust of God, in grace. We listen to the Holy Spirit, Walk Across the Room, enter the adventure.

Walk Across the Room: Our role (John 9:1-41. Verses omitted)

"<sup>1</sup> As He (Jesus) passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ... (verse 4-5 omitted) <sup>6</sup> Having said these things, He spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup> and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' <sup>9</sup> Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' <sup>10</sup> So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' <sup>11</sup> He answered, '**The man called Jesus** made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' ... (verses 12-14 omitted) <sup>15</sup> So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.'" <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about Him, since

He has opened your eyes?' He said, '**He is a prophet.**' ... (verses 18-23 omitted)

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' <sup>25</sup> He answered, 'Whether He is a sinner I do not know. **One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.**' <sup>26</sup> They said to him, 'What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?' <sup>27</sup> He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?' <sup>28</sup> And they reviled him, ... (verses 28b-32 omitted) <sup>33</sup> (The blind man said) **If this man were not from God**, He could do nothing.' <sup>34</sup> They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' <sup>36</sup> He answered, 'And who is He, sir, that I may believe in him?' <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, 'You have seen Him, and it is He who is speaking to you.' <sup>38</sup> He said, 'Lord, I believe,' and **he worshiped Him** ... (verses 39-41 omitted)" John 9 (ESV)

### WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What do we know about Jesus from this passage? About His disciples? About the man born blind? About the Pharisees?
2. What does this passage say about why some face difficulties?

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. Why did Jesus "spit on the ground"? Why were some of the blind man's neighbors unsure it was him? Verses 8-9.
4. How long did it take before the man "worshipped Jesus"? (He called him "the man Jesus", then "prophet", then "from God.")

### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

5. How patient of a person are you? What tries your patience?
6. What would you like to fix quickly ... about yourself? Others?
7. What steps did you take before you "worshipped Jesus"? Explain. If you are not yet a Christian, what stage are you at?
8. What is God working on (fixing, growing) in your life? What role does God have you in right now in another's life?

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God to help you grow in patience with yourself and with others (this prayer often invites trying times). Ask God to help you embrace the role He wants you to play in the life of another. God is patient with you, me too, because He loves us.