

## The Great Reversal - "I was blind, but now I see"

### Opening Announcements

### Opening Prayer

Q: In the opening lines of the GREAT Hymn, "Amazing Grace", why is it that so many people seem to relate and resonate to that hymn?

Q: What's the problem with not being able to "see" clearly, or completely? How does that impact our situations, how we understand and "know" other people?

Q: Why is it both tricky and risky to "think" we see when we might NOT see the whole situation?

**READ: Proverbs 18:17** "The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him."

Q: What's the wisdom and warning in this verse? What does it have to do with "seeing"?

**READ: John 9:1-17** "As he 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. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <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." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <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."

Q: So what happens? What's unusual about this text?

Q: What did the Pharisee's deduce about this man and about Jesus?

Q: What was the problem with their "deduction"?

**WARNING, Caveat and A Weird Text....**

This following text for Table Time...is from the **"Laws about Bodily Discharges"** (Leviticus 15). When a person "has a discharge" (of any kind), they were considered "unclean" and God had significant restrictions on the individual to minimize the spread of disease, uncleanness, etc. "Spitting" on someone BY someone who was "unclean" would mean the person who received the spit...would be unclean. So a **transfer** would take place and the person who was spit upon would be considered "unclean" until they washed. Also, the act of spitting was seen as a hostile act and Jesus was "spit upon" multiple times during His trial and crucifixion. Their "uncleanness" and hostility was borne by Him so that WE would receive mercy and grace and salvation!

**Table Time....**

**READ: Leviticus 15:1-3,8, 13-15** "The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean. <sup>3</sup> And this is the law of his uncleanness for a discharge: whether his body runs with his discharge, or his body is blocked up by his discharge, it is his uncleanness.....And **if the one with the discharge spits on someone who is clean**, then he shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening....."And when the one with a discharge is cleansed of his discharge, then he shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes. And he shall bathe his body in fresh water and shall be clean. <sup>14</sup> And on the eighth day he shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons and come before the Lord to the entrance of the tent of meeting and give them to the priest. <sup>15</sup> And the priest shall use them, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord for his discharge."

Q: Jesus was NOT unclean, so His act doesn't make the man "unclean"! AND....He did not "spit" ON the man directly, but His spit was mixed with dirt (symbolic of God creating man from the "dust" - Genesis 2:7) and then applied to this man's blind eyes. So, WHAT does THIS symbolize?

Q: In the "laws regarding bodily discharges", after someone is "spit upon" (verse 8 above), what did God command them to do? How is this similar to the what Jesus told this man?

Q: What does "washing" remind us of? And how does it apply to our spiritual "sight"?

Q: What does the name of the pool also remind us of?

Q: How would this act, in this way, speak to the Pharisees and religious leaders about Jesus?

Q: How does ALL this show us that everything Jesus did have a rich MORE behind it?