



Sunday of the Blind Man

Today's passage takes place during the Feast of Sukkot or Booths (Lev 23). This feast remembers how God cared for the Hebrews while they wandered in the desert. The booths represent the temporary dwellings, the fire symbolizes the pillar that led them through the desert, and the water signifies the wells of salvation (Isa 12:3). But now, the Word has "pitched a booth" among us (John 1:14); in other words, Jesus has come to walk with us in the desert, and he is the light that leads us and the water that brings salvation. Like the blind man, we are recreated (from the mud) and healed from our spiritual blindness when we accept the "light" of the gospel that's been handed down to us according to scripture.

Scripture: John 9:1-38

Bottom Line: We are all spiritually blind, but the gospel opens our eyes to a new reality.

Discussion Questions

1. "Blindness" here is used metaphorically to speak of "spiritual blindness." What do you think our society is spiritually blind to? What are *you* spiritual blind to?
2. It's easy to understand how Jesus makes the "blind see," but he also said that he makes those who "see" become "blind" (John 9:39). What do you think this means?
3. The man washed in the Pool of Silaom, which means "sent." What do you think the "sent" refers to? What's "sent" to us today?
4. Why do you think Jesus spit in the dirt to make mud to heal the man? Where else in scripture do we see God using dirt to create? What does this "mud" symbolize?
5. The blind man had to wash to be healed. What ritual do we, as Christians, do to "wash" our sins away? What connections do you see between this washing and our washing?

Moving Forward

For us, as Christians, the Feast of Sukkot now centers around Jesus, he is its fulfillment. To celebrate this feast is to be healed of our spiritual blindness and walk according to the teaching of Jesus—this is the road of Life. Will you accept the light and believe?

Changing Your Mind

". . . Jesus said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he'." (John 9:37)