



Sunday, June 28, 2009: The Searchlight

Scripture: John 9:1-41; 2 Corinthians 3:14-4:6

Speaker: Scott Masson

Sermon Notes:

1. Jesus claims to be the real Moses: feeding the people, walking on the sea, providing bread in the wilderness.
2. Jesus makes a clear reference to the feast of booths (Exodus 13:21).
3. Zechariah 14:16-17. All nations should gather to celebrate the feast of booths.
4. Water poured down the temple steps is a sign of blessing – the spirit of God being poured out on all people (Isaiah 32:1).
5. Those who would appear to be the most religious are condemned. Those who think they can discern what is right prove to be spiritually blind.
6. Wherever Jesus went there were divisions. Jesus got angry daily it seems, whenever there was an injustice: when the blessings of God were turned into a burden; whenever piety was turned into a cloak for self-righteousness; whenever opponents appealed to invalid authority, or used faulty logic.
7. This man was blind from birth. Legalists assume everything bad that happens is because of wrongdoing.
8. Total depravity teaches not that we are as bad as we possibly could be, but that all of our being is affected by sin.
9. Only the presence and light of the Saviour shows us that we are sinners. God's grace alone reveals our disgrace.
10. Jesus' spit is not supernatural, but it's by His Word that He acts and heals.
11. God addresses us with speech, and that makes us human beings. We are response-able and we are responsible.
12. When you identify with Jesus, people will reject you.
13. Though he is kicked out of the synagogue, Jesus illumines the blind man and refines him through the suffering.
14. The mark of the Christian is that he fears sinning more than suffering, like this blind man.
15. John 9:35. Jesus brought this man out of darkness into light.

Application Questions:

1. Do we withdraw from those who are suffering or struggling?
2. In what ways is the blind man in John 9 an example of the state of all people before Christ visits them?
3. The disciples, who inhabit a moral universe, assume that the reason a man born blind is in such a state is because of a personal sin. Does Jesus deny that this is possible?
4. Jesus leaves the man whom he heals for a time on his own, during which he is reviled, abused and ultimately excommunicated from the Jewish community (v.34). How does God use our tribulation (and sometimes apparent abandonment) in order to bring us closer to Him?
5. As the blind man who was healed publicly identifies himself with Jesus even when the cost of doing so escalates, we observe him grow in his love and knowledge of the Lord. In what areas of your life are you avoiding God's blessing by distancing yourself from Him?