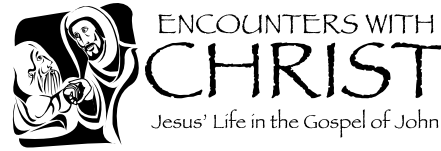


Prayer Updates



"How Christ Helps Me See" John 9:1-41

Message by Mark Spurlock, March 11 & 12, 2006

HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

Buck Harris – pneumonia, moved to RCU
Bud Emory – surgery
Dennis Mowles – cancer surgery
Jan Emanuelson – surgery
Jane Evers – stroke
John Parich – cancer surgery
Ladell Faulk – cancer surgery
Lorraine Kenyon – testing
Loré Kingsbury – surgery
Robert Walters – spinal infection after recent fall
Virginia Fair – punctured lung, renal failure, staph infection

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES:

Ellie Tefertiller, James Bresnahan, Janis Pavlovich, Larry Warren

HOME WITH THE LORD

Heartfelt prayer is expressed to Bert Perry whose father, a wonderful Christian man, passed peacefully into the presence of the Lord.

HEARTFELT THANKS

"Following my recent diagnosis with Lymphoma, God has embraced us and filled us up with His love through you. Thank you – what an assurance as Susie and I begin a new faith journey with a purpose – even better equipped to serve you and HIM (Psalm 33:20-22). Please remember many others in our church family receiving cancer treatment and praise God for the enriching ministry of our Through Cancer with Care support group."
– Gary Williams, Pastor of Care & Second-Half Ministries

JOY & BLESSING

Alana Andrade welcomes Samira Rose, born March 6th.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups – call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

Jesus says: "I am the light of the world." John 9:5

But...

1. Like the disciples, I can be blinded by misplaced _____ .

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
John 9:2

The result: _____

2. Like the parents, I can be blinded by misplaced _____ .

His parents said this because they were afraid... anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."
John 9:22-23

The result: _____

3. Like the Pharisees, I can be blinded by misplaced _____ .

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." John 9:16
"Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." John 9:24

"We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."
John 9:29

"We know that God does not listen to sinners." John 9:31

The result: _____

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains." John 9:41

Jesus helps me see...

•My _____ as an opportunity for his _____ .

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." John 9:3

•My _____ as an opportunity for his _____ .

"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." John 9:11

"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" John 9:25

•My _____ as the object of his _____ .

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" John 9:35

•My _____ as the object of my _____ .

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. John 9:38

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this weekend's message

This week's memory verse: "The LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous." Psalm 146:8

Monday

Read John 9:1-41. What stood out to you most in last weekend's sermon? Why? Reread John 9:2. How can you relate to the disciples' misplaced focus? What are you easily distracted by?

How did the disciples' misplaced focus impact their view of the blind man?

How have your distractions caused you to view people differently than God does?

Thank God today for the people in your life who took the time to see the real you. Confess the distractions to God. Ask Him to give you His eyes to see life and the opportunities it presents.

Tuesday

Read John 9:18-23 & 1 John 4:17-19. What were the parents afraid of?

Think about your life right now. What fears are you struggling with? How have those fears blinded you to potential of God's power?

What do the verses in 1 John have to say about fear? How does that truth relate to the story of the man born blind? How does that apply to your fears?

Thank God today that there is no fear in His love. Thank Him for His power and sovereignty. Talk to God about the fears you're struggling with. Visualize laying those fears at Jesus' feet and entrusting them to His care.

Wednesday

Read John 9:24-41. The Pharisees had the best of intentions but lost sight (pun intended) of where to place their faith. What is something in your life that has started with the best of intentions but digressed into something that misses the goal?

Why did the Pharisees veer off course?

As you think about your life right now, in what way is pride blinding you?

Thank God today for His forgiveness. Thank Him for setting an example of humility for you to follow. Confess the areas of your life where you're struggling with pride and ask God to reveal to you any areas that you may be unaware of still!

Thursday

Read John 9:3, 11 & 25; & 1 John 2:2-4. Imagine being part of this story.

What emotions do you think this man was feeling when Jesus began the healing process?

Write down one problem that is out of your control. How is this an opportunity for God to display His power?

Do you think the man would have been healed if he had washed in any pool?

What is the connection between obedience and blessing?

In what area(s) is God calling you to obedience?

Thank God today for His amazing power. Thank Him for at least five blessings that He's given you. Pray that your faith in Him will grow and that you will be willing to obey His call on your life no matter how odd it may seem!

Friday

Read John 9:35-38. What do you think it meant to this man that Jesus would search him out after the Pharisees had thrown him out?

How has God searched for you? How does knowing that impact you?

What do you learn from the man's response to the truth of who Jesus was?

What role does worship play in your faith? How could that be enhanced?

Thank God today for searching for you. Spend at a few minutes focused on worshiping God for who He is. Pray that as you continue in your walk of faith you will increasingly see the world through His eyes.

Saturday

Please finish up any devotions you may have missed and brush up on the memory verse for this week. Please pray for the services this weekend, that God will use them to encourage and grow the church. Thanks!