

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

February 23, 2020

Issue 8

WHAT THE BLIND MAN SAW WHEN HE COULD SEE

By: Ronnie Scherffius

One of the more well known statements of the New Testament was made by an unnamed man healed by Jesus of his blindness: “one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see” (John 9:25). To avoid the threat of death for declaring His deity (John 8:56-59), Jesus went out of the temple where he passed by a blind man (Jn. 9:1-7). This set off a chain of events that provides a series of illustrations which demonstrate what some may see when their eyes are opened to the truth of Jesus Christ (John 9:1).

When the blind man could see he saw the controversy and division that arises about Jesus Christ: “Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them” (Jn 9:16). Even today there is great division that surrounds the Christ; a division that often is not fully seen until truth is fully discovered.

Content with human traditions, many in the religious world avoid “division” with one another though they may hold opposing views. Some submit to the authority of the pope while others to their conference. One believes infants are pure and innocent while his theological counterpart teaches infants are to be baptized. Even within various religious groups contention among otherwise disagreeable members is often contained by an early service being conducted “traditionally” and a second service in a more “contemporary” format. An ecumenical spirit looms large among such professed Christians. But let the authority of Jesus Christ in all matters of faith

be finally and fully discovered and division will be seen. Suddenly, those who were friends become enemies (Gal. 4:16). Quite often, when the darkness of error is removed by the light of God’s Word controversy and division will arise about Jesus Christ.

When the blind man could see he saw that his parent’s faith was not strong: “These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him” (Jn 9:22-23). Sadly, when some obey the gospel of Christ they discover the ones closest to them are the farthest from Christ. Others, when choosing to stand firm on “controversial” issues (such as adulterous marriage) find their parents hold a compromising spirit with error. Certainly, we are to give honor to our parents (Eph. 6:1-2; Mt. 15:4-6), but when family opposes truth we must not allow ourselves to be swayed: “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple” (Lk 14:26).

When the blind man could see he saw the hateful spirit of some who deny Christ: “They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out” (Jn 9:34). It is not unusual for one to be mistreated by family or friends after obedience to the gospel. Some, however, may be outright persecuted. Peter spoke of these when he wrote: “Wherein they think it strange that ye run

not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you [slander you - RLS]" (1 Pt. 4:4). After Saul's conversion we learn that "straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God" (Acts 9:20). Yet, in only a few days we see that those who had been his friends now "took counsel to kill him" (Acts 9:23). While such may seem an extreme circumstance to us, the fact remains that many, after their eyes are fully opened to the truth see the hateful spirit of some who deny Christ.

In many ways we live a sheltered life. The "persecution" we endure as Christians is not worthy even to be compared to the injustices endured by some in foreign lands. Nevertheless, when one's eyes are fully opened to the truth of Jesus Christ, he like the blind man may see controversy, disappointment, or even the hateful spirit of an antagonistic world. Brethren, be strong. Because Jesus has overcome so can we!

Passing the Baton Gracefully
By: David Maxson

Reading: Numbers 27-29

Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd." Numbers 27:15-17

It's hard for leaders who have labored so long and so diligently in the Lord's service to allow the next generation to come along beside them (or in front of them) and have opportunities to lead. But it's necessary if the baton is going to be passed to do so willingly and gracefully.

Moses was told at Meribah that he would not be allowed to enter the promised land because of his sin. He is told here at Aba-rim that he is to ascend the mountain, view the land and then be gathered to his people.

I'm impressed by Moses' response. He doesn't argue with the LORD about how unfair it is that he is not allowed to enter. His thoughts are not about himself. Instead, he thinks about his people. He has labored with them for 40 years. He knows how much they are like sheep. He asks God to provide them another shepherd to lead them into the promised land.

Godly leaders are not driven by pride or selfish motives. They do not seek applause, or money, or any other carnal benefits of being in a position of authority. They only seek what is best for God's people. They realize they are stewards. It's not about them. It's about God's people.

May God continue to help us all to have a mind to what is best for His people and not our own part in the Kingdom and to give us opportunities to mentor young men and women who will carry on the torch after we're gone.

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Gospel Meeting at MidTown church of Christ

Theme: **Unity in the Body of Christ**

March 8th-11th, 2020 with Kelvin Pugh



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of February 23, 2020

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobes
Offering: Lupe Escojido
Assist: BJ Davis, Kirk FitzSimmons, Christian Sneeringer

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobes

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Jeff Harris
P.M. Closing: Larry Nuckels

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Sun. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wednesday: Mike McVey

Usher: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Ron White

Open/Close Building: Will Burleson

Sound System: Trenton Jenkins

Greeters: Bryce Dolan
Doug Jobes

Prepare Communion: Jamison

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

Thank you to our hard working Bible Class teachers who helped instruct our young people last quarter. A new quarter for youth ages begins
March 1st.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Virginia Escojido and Veronica Serenil, who's sister Mary Lou Arguelles passed away last week. Brant Jacobs who had surgery on his wrist. Damian Benitez, Jr., nephew of Virginia Escojido and Veronica Serenil, who is in serious condition at DeTar Hospital.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 25: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class @ 10am
March 8-11: MidTown's Spring Gospel meeting with Kelvin Pugh.

AREA EVENTS

Feb: 27-Mar. 1: Arise and grow as a family workshop at Southwest church of Christ in Austin, TX
Mar. 26-28: "Women of Valor" Retreat. More info on the bulletin board.
June 3-7: "Wait on the Lord" Men's Development conference in College Station.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Robert Powers (23), Simon Cammock (24)

Happy Anniversary: Richard & Mickey Tisue (26)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of February 16, 2020

Bible Class.....127
A.M. Worship.....163
P.M. Worship.....88
Wednesday Bible Class.....82

Offering \$9,156.87

Reading for this week:

Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd."
Numbers 27:15-17

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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