2023 03 19 I am Blind yet I See.

John 9:1-41

I give you a choice :1). you have sight and can see clearly – but look without seeing.

Or 2). your eyes are blind but you sense the world around you and the feelings of other people.

We sort of see both of these in this reality of the Lord Jesus and his close followers. They both ‘see’ the blind man yet they see differently. The disciples see through their preconceived teachings and condemn the man. Someone is guilty of this man’s blindness. “did he sin or did his parents”? Do we do the same when we see a derelict or …?

Jesus, although not physically blind, sees through this to Gods purpose in allowing or ‘causing’ him to be born blind. His whole life has been leading up to now.

Hold your breath – from eternity this man had been ordained by God for this moment – his meeting with Jesus would show Gods works, show God to us, not only in him being healed but in the reality of freedom that Jesus would reveal through him.

The story: It was the religious day of the week – a very strictly controlled day under pre-Jesus rules of cleansing and gaining Gods forgiveness and presence through stricter laws. No work no lifting no cooking no walking except to church etc. etc. etc. he saw a man born blind. Jesus made clay out of his spital (human spital – not fairy , or angel dust) but real human spital and soil – just every day soil. He put it onto the mans eyes – no mumbo jumbo words and on this occasion no vocal prayer – which, if we were to glorified God by our actions would we have prayed aloud – our prayers must be in trust in Jesus with no show of self.

Contrast this with our good deeds and actions for God? Some of our meetings are really pumped up – this is not where the authority comes from – neither does dancing around pleading for Gods presence and power. Jesus life was one of being in Gods presence at all times, whatever circumstances, or where ever He was.always in God purpose and will, there are times when physical healing is not the plan – God has other purposes – remember Pauls thorn in the flesh that he asked God three times to remove and Gods answer was finally revealed – “it is to keep you from becoming proud”. Jesus was ready, always in touch with God the Father - and a man was healed, God was glorified in the healing but also in the obedience of the blind man,and the conversation. Jesus told this blind since birth man to go and wash in a specific pool, not just any pool but only Siloam. Now this man could have rationalized, what does it matter which pool, this water troth is closer – I know where it is, I drink from it everyday – being blind it is safer for me to go where I know.

Now how often do we rationalize and take a convenient, less demanding, less embarrassing path when we know, or suspect that God is leading another way – will it achieve the same outcome – maybe – but we and others will lose the benefit.

So he went – somehow even though he had not asked Jesus to heal him – somehow he trusted the voice and hands that had touched him. And so he washed and could see!

I can tell you two stories, a prominent Christian bookshop needed a new manager – I knew a man who I felt lead to but he had no qualification in management etc. but had a black and white way of looking at things and was determined – he had competed a Cert in religious studies.- - an applicant with a degree was given the job BUT within a year he left and my friend -as a last resort was offered the job. Now my friend had the outstanding characteristic of determination and practicality and God had a much bigger job than the bookshop. At that time the Christian book trade, the importing of Christian books into Australia was control by overseas and books were much to expensive. Dave ended up in a COURT CASE THAT broke that monopoly and allowed for open import into Australia of Christian books. He eventually became the world buyer for books for ………. Following God on an improbable cause won on earth what God had seen in heaven.

The other is recorded in the OT. A very powerful Assyrian General who had leprosy came to Elijah for healing and was told to go and was in the river – he was indignant with the casual treatment – he expected a big show befitting his importance, yet his servant encouraged him and when he came up out the water his body was clean.

Be carful to know ourselves and what our mind can convince us is Gods will. “the heart of man is deceitfully wicked and evil above all things”… our own desires can mimic Gods leading - YET not fully, and sometimes there is a delay. Listen to the “still quiet voice/ sense of God Presence in all matters.

There is a lady in our town who has had a call from God to hold an area wide meeting near the river and a call for baptisms. I am uncertain about being involved in this but is my uncertainty from fear -of standing out, of ??? She is attuned to God Spirit but do we need conformation – two or three witness ….

V3. What are Gods works in this case – what glorified God – the restoring of a human being to wholeness. To showing Gods love, and as we shall see, exposing the hypocrisy of some and *releasing ..* truth to others.

V8. Notice that others doubted what had happened but he, the formally blind man, was sure “one thing that I know – once I was blind but now I see!” We need to heed advice but the certainty is between us individually and God. Listen to the still quiet voice in our spirit, not the circumstances or the difficulties or the loudest voices of others. We have Gods Spirit in us and we will be led of the Holy Spirit. Read John 14-17 the promise that Jesus made the night before he died – ‘a death bed promise’.

V4,5. The ‘darkness’ that Jesus knew was coming, the crucifixion was coming, Jesus knew that he would become the filth of the world as he took my sins, your rebellions, the billions of sins of the world into himself that he would become sin and come under the power of the enemy. He that he had to teach his followers and us 2000 years later.

Jesus IS the light of each one individually, personally – “those that dwell in darkness have seen a great light” that includes us! “awake from the dead and Christ will shine on you!” – again me, you, the people outside or next door or. every were.

One of the things that stop the light shining in its fullness is that human beings seem to like rules and regulations – they keep us *safe* – safe from ourselves and give us control over our emotions of our inner selves. The religious leaders, used the laws that were meant by God to keep us close to Himself, and bring a peaceful community – they ‘developed’ them so that they had complete control and here was this ‘carpenter’ openly challenging them by breaking one of the strongest – The 7 th day rules. Rules that God set out for our blessing and growth in our relationship between Himself and us and between ourselves and the community we live in and for ourselves -to rest, strength and be oursleves in Him.

V35-38. Jesus asked the man “do you believe in the Son of Man, who is he Lord that I might believe in him? Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one speaking with you. Lord I believe. And he worshiped him”

The blind man saw, he experienced Jesus touch, he questioned, believed and responded.

There it is – us, each one of our individual lives.

Where are we this moment?