

Messed Up in A Good Way

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John 9:8-23 ESV

8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10 So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” 12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” 22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) 23 Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

Intro:

Imagine the high school youth pastor, addressing the parents of incoming freshmen: “You may think youth group will be a good influence on them and keep them protected from bad influences. But be warned: We hope they fall in love with the things of God, and have their hearts broken by what breaks God’s heart. If they are a part of our youth group, we are going to encourage them to serve the homeless in the worst part of town. We are going to challenge them to give their whole lives over to God’s will. Our goal is to introduce your kids to Jesus. We pray that Jesus becomes their Lord. If that happens, it is totally going to mess up their lives – in a good way!”

Context: John is using this story to describe an event that happened during Jesus ministry, but also to illustrate what will happen for the reader if they put their trust in Jesus. If you believe, John says, then God is going to bring light and healing into your life. But not only are you going to see the world in a totally different way, but the world is going to see YOU in a totally different way!

Core

When the power of the gospel transforms one person's life, it shakes things up for everyone around that person.

What to notice about this story:

- **Other people don't recognize him** – he doesn't fit inside their neat little boxes anymore.
 - Do you know someone who was “a completely different person” after an encounter with God? What the change temporary or permanent?

- **He draws unwanted attention** - After he tells them it was Jesus, they take him to Jesus' opponents the Pharisees.
 - Have you ever gotten unwanted attention for your faith? Do you think God wants your faith to stay private, personal, anonymous?

- **Life gets harder for his family** – His parents are afraid of being ostracized.
 - Imagine those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord in predominately non-Christian cultures. Do we have a difficult time grasping the risk involved?

- **No one is celebrating!** No one seems to be having the most obviously appropriate response: Celebrating this healing as a blessing for the man and a sign of God's in-breaking kingdom!

John is challenging his readers to not only put their trust in Jesus, but also to count the cost of doing so. Are you willing to let God heal you AND mess your life up?

Call

Ask yourself: How has God caused me to see life differently in a way that makes other people upset or uncomfortable?

Close in prayer.

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