

**Title:** **-S-** Here's Mud in Your Eye!

**Theme:** Jesus heals a blind man

**Scripture:** **-S-** "... He (*Jesus*) spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his (*the blind man's*) eyes, and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam'... So he went away and washed, and came *back seeing.*" (John 9:6-7)

When I was a child, a long, long, long time ago we did not have video games. Most of my days were spent with my friends in the creek and woods near my house. **-S-** We made forts out of card board boxes, built tree houses, picked wild berries and apples and hunted for **-S-** bugs, frogs, lizards and snakes. By the end of the day when I went home **-S-** I was often covered with dirt. Sometimes my mother would make me take off my shirt, jeans and tennis shoes and then she would hose me off in the back yard before I could come into the house.

Today, many people are worried about letting the kids get dirty. So some kids miss out on the fun of getting dirty and playing in the mud. Have you ever made a mud pie? **-S-** You take some dirt and mix in some water. **-S-** Then you put it into a pan and decorate it with flowers and leaves. Sit it out in the sun and you have a mud pie. Mud pies look great and are fun to make, but do not eat them! They will taste like mud – yuck! How do I know - because I tried them.

In our Bible story today Jesus did something amazing with mud. Listen to the story and tell me if you think it was amazing also.

**-S-** Jesus was walking and teaching His disciples and as they walked they came to a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus if the man was

blind because of his sins or his parent's sins? Jesus said, "No" the man was not blind because of sin, but he was blind so Jesus could show people the glory and power of God. **-S-** Jesus bent down and made mud from the dust and placed the mud on the man's eyes. Jesus told the man, "Go wash your eyes and you will be able to see." The man went and washed and indeed he could now see. The man then knew God had sent Jesus. But, the Pharisees, who were spiritually blind, were upset because Jesus was showing the people how to truly worship God by faith.

You see these Pharisees were more concerned about keeping man-made religious laws than they were about helping people. Worshipping God by believing in Jesus as our Lord and Savior and helping other people is far more important than the man-made religious rules.

If Jesus can heal a blind man from birth and give him sight, well then, Jesus can help us with any problems we come to in life. **-S-** Jesus is the answer. Jesus is God.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending Jesus so that we can come back to you and be saved. Help us, O God, to believe and have faith in Jesus. Help us love Jesus and serving others that they might come to know Jesus. May our lives be lived in such a way that You, O God, are gloried! Amen!

## **PRAYER**

**-S-** The stage was set with Jesus healing the blind man and giving him sight. As the story now continues each of the parties claim to both know certain things and to not know some things. This dialog then affords us an opportunity to examine different types of knowledge, more specifically Christian and non-Christian knowledge. The three parties found in this story are the **-S-** Pharisees, the **-S-** formerly blind man and **-S-** his parents. We will examine each of these, their statements and see how knowledge relates to belief and how belief effects people this very day in our society.

## **-S- Formerly Blind Man**

Let me begin reading from John chapter 9 verse 13, **-S-** “They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.” Jesus had healed the blind man and loosened the Pharisees’ grip over the people. The easiest thing the Pharisees could attack is that Jesus performed a miracle on the Sabbath. **-S-** The problem is that the Sabbath had become a day of laws and ritual instead of a day to rest from their normal labor, a day to focus on God, a day to worship God and to enjoy God. If you have come to church this morning because of obligation or because church is what those who call themselves Christian do – well then, you are just like the Jews of Jesus’ time. My beloved are you here to enjoy Jesus? Do you have a deep relationship with Him? The Creator of the universe is a God of relationship. The ritual of the Jews did not save them. God sent Jesus to begin a new covenant

because men broke the old covenant. If it did not work two thousand years ago, if ritual and works did not save them – why, why would anyone want to go back and repeat this mistake?

Grasping for straws the Pharisees again question the man who had been blind. They were hoping he would change his story. That they could catch him in some misspoken phrase. Anything, any chink, in his story that would allow them to find a solution other than Jesus. We continue in verse 15, **-S-** “Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, ‘He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.’”<sup>16</sup> Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, ‘This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.’ **-S-** But others were saying, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs? And there was a division among them.’<sup>17</sup> So they said to the blind man again, ‘What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?’ And he said, ‘He is a prophet.’” This man is simple, but he knew the simple truth – the truth of what Jesus did and his beginning to understanding who Jesus is – for the man says of Jesus, **-S-** “He is a prophet.” The formerly blind man tells the Pharisees the facts; I was born blind, Jesus anointed my eyes with clay, He told me to go to the pool Siloam (*see lo am*) wash my eyes and now I see. Since this man is firm in his story and the Pharisees cannot show him to be false they then attack Jesus on this issue of the Sabbath. Their argument is that Jesus violated the Sabbath, but the truth is that Jesus did not violate God’s Sabbath, but the man-made Sabbath of the Jews. Man-made rules enforced by the Pharisees to control people and maintain their power and position. Satan has only so many ways to operate to distract people from true worship of God. Today Satan still uses this method and unfortunately quite effectively. We are surrounded by ministries, churches and people who say true

worship is found in systems, rituals, works and rules or by following some person, but the real truth is that these ways are all false. **-S-** True worship of God is found only in God the Son, Jesus the Christ by His grace and by faith. Jesus had so much patience with most people – especially those who recognized that they were sinners and were seeking the truth. On the other hand He showed impatience with the Pharisees for they studied and knew the scriptures and therefore should have known better and may very well have known better, but their desire for power, control and position lead them harden their hearts towards both God and those God desired they serve. In Genesis chapters 8 to 10 Moses tells Pharaoh, whose heart was hard – just like the Pharisees - that he must let the people go. Why? **-S-** The people where to serve God. In Deuteronomy as Moses establishes the priesthood through the Levites and it is the Levites who the Pharisees descend from, and as Moses rewrites the Tablets we read, **-S-** “You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name. He is your praise and He is your God...” (Deut. 10:20-21a) The leaders of the Jewish people and the leaders of Jesus Christ’s church today are to be servants, to model servant hood so the people will serve God first and others second. Jesus our Lord tells us in the Gospel According to Mark, **-S-** “But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:43-45) My beloved, who do your serve? Is it Jesus? Is it others in Jesus’ name? Yourself? **-S-** For whom you serve in truth, not just in words, reveals your heart. You certainly cannot change yesterday, but the rest of today and the future lies before you. Who will you serve? How will you live?

## **-S-** The Parents

Since the Pharisees are grasping for straws and searching for any answer other than the true answer before them they now send for the formerly blind man's parents. As we look at this dialog we can see what the parents knew and what they claim they do not know. Again reading from chapter 9 at verse 18, **-S-** "The Jews then did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight,<sup>19</sup> and questioned them, saying, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?'<sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;<sup>21</sup> but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.'<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him (*Jesus*) to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> For this reason his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'" The tone of the Pharisees question in verse 19 is one that says quit lying and come clean with the truth. **-S-** "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" The parents in response state two things they know; **-S-** 1) That the healed man is their son and **-S-** 2) He was born blind. They also deny knowing two things; **-S-** 1) How their son came to see and **-S-** 2) Who it was that did this miracle. The second is not entirely truthful. They may not have met Jesus directly, but their testimony in verse 21 reveals, **-S-** "... how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know." By using the word "who" indicates that they have heard that Jesus had healed their son either from their son or someone else. Verse 22 tells us why they answered they way they did – **-S-** "they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone

confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.”

Is this not also an accurate picture of the way it is for us today? People in America have heard the truth of the gospel from parents, friends, teachers and preachers. Many intellectually know what they have heard is true and believe the gospel to be true in some ways or at some level. But they will not say out loud or in public that they know Jesus is the Son of God. **-S-** They fear men more than God. If Christianity was outlawed today and you were arrested is there enough evidence in your life to convict you of being a Christian?

### **-S-** The Pharisees

The Pharisees not having success in tripping up the formerly blind man and being unable to get his parents to give them an opportunity to attack Jesus, they call for the man a second time. Reading beginning with verse 24, **-S-** “So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, ‘Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner.’ <sup>25</sup> He then answered, ‘Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ <sup>26</sup> So they said to him, ‘What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?’ **-S-** <sup>27</sup> He answered them, ‘I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear *it* again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?’ <sup>28</sup> They reviled him and said, ‘You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from.’ **-S-** <sup>30</sup> The man answered and said to them, ‘Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. **-S-** <sup>32</sup> Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the

eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.’ <sup>34</sup> They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?’ So they put him out.”

Here in this exchange we see that the Pharisees also say they know certain truths and do know other information. They claim to know; **-S-** 1) That Jesus is a sinner and **-S-** 2) That God had spoken through Moses. **-S-** The Pharisees also claim to not know Jesus’ origin. However, this contradicts what they said earlier. The Pharisees said, **-S-** “... We know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from.” (John 7:27) Also if these Pharisees did not know where Jesus was from then they also did not know Jesus well enough to call Him a sinner. Unfortunately, this describes those today who claim to know all about Christ and that Christ has given them special knowledge and powers when in truth they do not know Christ personally, have not submitted their lives to Him and are not servants as modeled by Him. They might write books, have TV and radio shows and may be worth millions, but these are not evidence that they truly know Christ as their Lord and Savior any more than the Pharisees truly served God. If Christ has not called them, regenerated their soul and saved them by His grace they can only claim to know Him and even want to know Him, but in truth they have no eternal or spiritual knowledge, they do not know Jesus and do not have a relationship with God.

### **-S-** The Formerly Blind Man

The testimony of this man is astounding. He also says there are things he does not know and things that he does and is sure of. He openly says he does not know whether Jesus is a sinner or not, but he knows that Jesus gave him sight. **-S-** He



does not know everything about Jesus, but he knows Jesus changed him forever. He confronts the Pharisees with their own logic; if Jesus is a sinner, God would not hear Him and He could not have given him sight. **-S-** God heard Jesus and gave Him the power to heal – therefore, Jesus must not be a sinner. His sight must be a miracle from God because history shows that **-S-** “Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.” He continues with logic that dumbfounded the Pharisees stating, **-S-** “If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” Just as the Holy Spirit gave Steven the right words when he was on trial – here this blind man is given the words and logical argument that before his meeting Jesus was beyond him, but now he stands confident before the lost Pharisees. This blind man was a type or representative of Christians today. **-S-** Christians do not claim to know everything about God the Father or God the Son. How can the finite know all there is to know about the infinite? However, what we do know we know is true because we have each meet Jesus and have a relationship with God through Him. This formerly blind man began in humility and recognizes his limitations – this is quite different from the approach the Pharisees took. The Pharisees now, frustrated and backed into a corner by an uneducated beggar lash out saying, **-S-**<sup>34</sup> “ ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?’ So they put him out.” To be “put out” meant to be put out of the synagogue, to be excommunicated and this was serious indeed. To be excommunicated meant to be excluded from the synagogue, which was the center of life for a community. It meant to be shunned by the community itself. This man paid a heavy price to stand for truth. Today the church is no longer the center of life and community – so to be excommunicated has little impact. America is a country of individuals; proud of their individualism and as a society they have lost God’s sense of community. This has lead to the state America is

now in; run away divorce, crime, dysfunction and a growingly more deceitful self-serving government. Jesus calls Christians to be in community for their protection, to be holy or set apart from society, a society that is lost and corrupt. Because our society now influences the church, the church is becoming dysfunctional and a mirror of society. **-S-** Christians, you and I, must stand firm for the truth just as this formerly blind man did. **-S-** When we stand for Jesus – He responds to us by giving us courage and spiritual strength.

This story and message this morning closes with Jesus reaching out to this man rejected by the Pharisees and reaching out to each of us who are faithful. Reading beginning in verse 35, **-S-** “Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ <sup>36</sup> He answered, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.’ <sup>38</sup> And he said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshiped Him. <sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, ‘For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.’” This man knows that Jesus is from God and through the power of God healed him and gave him sight - he has no problem in believing Jesus when He says, **-S-** “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” This man is aware that Jesus is referring to the long awaited Messiah or the Christ. Again, simple and straightforward he asks Jesus who the Messiah is. Jesus says the Messiah, the Son of Man, is standing before him and has healed him. The man makes a simple, yet profound statement **-S-** “Lord, I believe.” This man knows his Lord and Savior and therefore is not only given physical but spiritual sight and salvation. For those who have been spiritually blind Jesus has now come to give them sight. But, those, like the Pharisees, who have used God for their own purposes and gain and who claimed to have spiritual knowledge and

sight - they show that they in truth are spiritually blind and lost. Like Pharaoh because of their pride and hard hearts they cannot see the truth before them and are condemned. As the last verses inform us, **-S-**<sup>40</sup> “Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, ‘We are not blind too, are we?’<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.’ ” The question was who do the Pharisees serve?

The question that is before us today is; are we, you and I, like the blind man seeking the mercy and truth of Jesus? Are we willing to have the simple and yet straightforward faith as the formerly blind man – **-S-** recognizing the miracle Jesus has done in our lives, removing our spiritual blindness? Are we willing to set aside this world, willing to be holy, willing to live apart from the world and serve Jesus? Or will we let our pride, ambition, bitterness and unforgiveness harden our hearts and end up as shallow Christians, at best and unsaved at the worst. Will we be people that are of little good to God’s kingdom and those He calls us to serve? It is my prayer and desire that the community of Canyon Bible live the very words of our Lord Jesus, **-S-** “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. ... YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” (Mark 12:30-31) How will you live today?