

Jesus is inviting each of us to daily wash our eyes in the fresh, bubbling spring within us; that's the Holy Spirit whom he has given us. Jesus invites us to wash our eyes that we might see him for who he is, and in the process discover who we really are, and why we're alive.

I know I'm tempted to think I know the answers; I've got the theory. But Jesus isn't after theory. The Pharisees had the theory and missed the person. Truly tragic!

For those who have been making the time to pray, to share with Jesus from the heart and listen to his heart, I encourage you to continue. Seek

more of Jesus; wrestle with him.

Those who haven't started yet I'd encourage you to make a time each day to quietly be with Jesus, inviting him to send the Spirit, share what's on your heart, invite Jesus to share what's on his heart. Listen; grab that first thought, idea,

impression, sense, feeling, image and go. Grab Jesus' invitation to go and live life to the full with him, just like the man born blind.

Going and washing his eyes of some spit and dirt; how could that ever heal a person? But he took Jesus at his word; did what to reason was a

bit silly, and what an amazing life Jesus brought him into.

We grow in our relationship with Jesus when we make the time to let him encounter us; inviting him in, listening, sharing from the heart, then doing it. Relationships are two way actions.

What's Jesus placing on your heart this morning; ask him now. Grab that thought, that very first thought, then go. Go and be living life with Jesus, for it is in the living together, in the going that we're growing. Go and do it!

22 March 2020

## GROWING IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS—4

John 9:1-41



Leading up to Easter I've been looking at the theme; 'Growing in my relationship with Jesus.' What can we learn from Jesus' encounter with this man born blind?

The first thing is that Jesus and this man encounter each other. Obviously I'm not going to grow in my relationship with Jesus if we don't meet, if we don't get to know each other.

Of course that's why Jesus came; so we could get to know him, for who he is, personally. The word 'God' could mean anything, and over time humanity has sought to define who God is. But that's not how you get to know someone. You get to know someone by letting them reveal themselves, not by

telling them who they are.

Jesus is God, encountering us, encountering you, so that you get to know him for who he is; warts and all. In Jesus, God comes and says this is me; these are the things I like, that make me smile, and these are the things that get under my skin, that fire me up. Jesus is God revealing himself to us so that we can have a personal relationship with him.

Jesus is after living out a personal relationship of love and affection, in a conversational atmosphere, where we get to live out his supernatural love quite naturally.

The man born blind reminds me that on

my own I've got no idea about who God really is, let alone developing a personal relationship with him. On my own I'm born blind to who God is, and who I am, what's my purpose for life. We're all born blind.

Thank God he's come to find us personally. Jesus is God seeking you personally, so you can know him for who he really is.

Thank God, in Jesus, he has encountered us. Jesus not only encounters this man but he goes about healing him. Jesus does it with a personal touch, which invites a response.

That reminds me, relationships are two way actions. I need to be involved. Jesus

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

puts mud on the man's eyes and then says; "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam (Siloam means 'sent')." (John 9:7)

What would have happened if the man didn't go as he was sent?

The man takes Jesus at his word, goes and washes, and then he sees.

Sadly the Pharisees are as blind as bats. Their

preconceived ideas won't let them see what is right in front of them. Their position in society makes them totally blind; their misunderstanding of who God is makes them totally blind.

Here is a man born blind, who now sees twenty, twenty. But in their mind healing a person is work. Spitting on the ground to make mud is work. Does anyone see how this could be construed as work?

Why are they so hot on people working on the Sabbath?

They are totally blind to Jesus because of their preconceived ideas. Jesus doesn't fit their idea of God. Jesus doesn't fit their ideas of religion. Jesus doesn't use the Sabbath to

### Growing involves Challenges

appease God's anger.

The Pharisees, I always find a scary group, because they're there as a warning for me. What preconceived ideas do I have that make me blind to God?

What fears are shaping how I see the world and my understanding of religion? Where am I telling God how he has to act and what he can and cannot do?

One positive thing the Pharisees do is push this man to grow in his relationship with Jesus. He's grilled about who healed him, how it was done, who is this man Jesus and where is he now. Each time the man grows in his understanding and in his relationship with Jesus.

Do you notice that this man's growth in his relationship with Jesus involved

challenges; he's eventually thrown out of the synagogue. God was using these challenges to grow this man; he goes from seeing Jesus as a prophet, them calling himself Jesus' disciple, to accepting Jesus invitation to believe.

"When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man answered, 'Who is he, sir? I want to

believe in him.'" (John 9:35,36)

This man's eyes weren't the only thing to be opened. The eyes of his heart were also opened so that he could believe in Jesus, knowing him personally.

What challenges might Jesus be using in your life to grow

you in your relationship with him? Who are the people God has put in your life to ask you

questions, to get you thinking, so that you come to the point of belief, that you grow in your trust in Jesus.

What part of the drought, the fires, the virus been playing in growing us in our relationship with Jesus, in growing our trust in him?

Jesus passionate desire is that we grow in our relationship with him; trusting him, knowing him for who he is, no strings attached.

Jesus has revealed to us who he is, so we can know him.

But like the man born blind we're called into a relationship; and relationships are two way actions. Jesus gives us the wonderful gift of prayer; what's our part?

### It's in the Going, that we're Growing

Jesus gives us the presence of the Spirit; what do you think is your part?

God has allowed challenges into your life; people who question your faith, health issues that cause us to wrestle, all so we can grow in knowing him. All so that he can come and touch our lives bringing his healing.

What would have happened if the man born blind didn't go

and wash in the pool of Siloam?

Over the last three weeks I've encouraged, invited, asked that you spend time with Jesus talking about the things you love in life and then asking Jesus to respond with some of the things he loves.

Who thinks prayer is a good gift? Jesus comes and touches our lives; he uses no mud, but his very life,

that he smears over our souls and then invites us to go and wash in the pool of his blood; his life giving blood that he shed on the cross.

Jesus is inviting you to spend time talking with him; opening your bibles so that you see clearly who he has revealed himself to be. Then you'll also be able to see him clearly at other times in your life.