Good morning Pine Ridge family! We are just a few days away from the crucifixion of our Jesus. Today we are going to look at Chapter 9 of John’s Gospel.

When John wrote his gospel he was directing our attention to the great claims of Jesus. In chapter 8 John deals with the officials of Israel challenging Jesus and His claims. Jesus challenges them with their inability to recognize Truth. He states that truth is found in Him and *that* truth will make them free (32). Then he clearly states in verse 58 that He is God. Their reaction is - to try to stone Him.

John immediately takes us to one of the greatest questions of humanity in the story of the man born blind. This question in 9:2 is “Where is the fairness of God in this world?” Others healed by Jesus has developed blindness from injury or disease. This is the only one healed from a congenital condition. This man’s eyes had never worked; they had never developed.

So did this man deserve punishment for sins he had not yet committed at the time of his birth? Or did he deserve to be punished for sins that were not even his, but his parents’ sin? Jesus answers that the man had been prepared for this time and for this miracle – not for himself alone but for all of Israel and therefore to us as well.

There are many different things taken up by John in this man’s story. We often look with amusement at the reactions of friends and neighbors who look at him now healed and cannot believe it is really him. And all the time he is claiming that it is he. That points more to the fact that the unsaved cannot make sense of the transformation that this man exhibits.

The main revelation of this story is first that this man who yet does not know Jesus sees all the obvious proofs of where Jesus must have come from. The second point is that the officials are blind. They cannot see and they will not see. They have made up their minds before the miracle, when such a miracle should have changed their minds.

Going into the holy week with all the emotions it brings out in us, we are often think, “Well if I had been there…” we would have done something different. But that is a fruit of our present relationship with Jesus. We cannot forget that until Jesus healed us of our birth blindness, we could not and would not see who He really is. We would not have felt compassion or sorrow for Him. But when He touches our eyes and we truly see - then we feel shame, then hope, and then joy. Because then we can finally say, “Lord I now see! Lord I now believe.”

Tonight we will have a Bible study in Psalm 118, the middle of the entire Bible. Rachel has sent out a zoom connection and you can click on at 6:30 to join us live.

Friday we will be having a livestream of our Good Friday service. We will be having communion. This will be challenging. The Bible said that where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am also. Since there will two or three in your homes, He will be there and we will be together. So if you would be prepared to have something similar to communion elements. If they are not precise in their make-up remember that we aren’t precise as to the way Jesus did it either. This communion will help us to remember that we are a body, celebrating the sacrifice of Jesus for us.

In Christ Pastor EA