

Looking or Seeing?

Intro. The other day I was at the hardware store to buy a small can of “3 in 1” oil to lubricate a squeaky door. I asked for directions to the correct aisle. I stood there but couldn’t find it. When I asked for help again, the nice person gently pointed out it was right in front of me. Then as if it suddenly had flashing lights on it, I saw it. Duh! I was kind of blind, *looking* but *not seeing*.

I. How much more difficult it is to find something we *don’t* know we are looking for. When he got up that morning, the man probably wasn’t looking for a cure for his blindness. He had long ago given up hope of ever seeing. He didn’t know he would meet the Messiah. But, like the Samaritan woman at the well, he was in the right place and met the Lord who

changed his life too. Like everybody else the disciples wondered why bad things happened to people. In those days the prevailing understanding of things like blindness and disease was they were caused by sin; *somebody* – maybe a crazy uncle or aunt - screwed up and now *somebody else* was paying for it. The blind man was the lucky recipient of the explanation: it was to show God working through the Lord. The man didn’t say to the Lord, “What are you doing to me with that mud? Now I gotta wash it off!” He went to the place of healing and his faith got him sight. It became an opportunity for the man to evangelize his neighbors, strangers and especially the Pharisees who thought they knew everything. He knew something they didn’t: **he** knew where Jesus was from - God.

Concl. How could the Pharisees be so blind to the miracle? Maybe they refused to acknowledge the healing because it didn't come through them. The Lord didn't get their approval or join their club and instead seemed to want to break it up. A better question is, how can **we** be so blind and not see the presence of God today? Maybe **we** refuse to see "the works of God" because they come through people *we don't like* or *we disagree* with. The Pharisees were hell-bent on denying the fact the man was blind, now he sees. We sometimes don't let facts get in the way when we refuse to let God break up our nice little world. We like things to be comfortable for us, few challenges. Being too comfortable can blind us. Seeing clearly often leads us to new opportunities and growing in faith. That day, the man saw something he never expected to see: the

Lord. If we try to see more clearly, maybe the "appears" to us too.