

The title for today's message is; **If You Know Just One Thing**

Jesus said; ***"If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.***

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

In a world where so many people know so much, its good to be reminded of what is most important to know.

This is summarized in our text by the words of the blind beggar who was healed, he said: *"One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

Its important that we understand that Jesus has just been confronted by the Pharisees, something that didn't go over well at all.

In the last verse of chapter 8 it says; "The Pharisees picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."

Then in chapter 9 were told; As He, meaning Jesus, passed by, He saw a man who has been blind from birth. Now Jesus disciples asked Him.

Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? This question gives us a lot of insight into the religious thinking of the day.

It was a pretty basic premise, if you are good, then good things will happen to you. But if you are bad, watch out.

So if that is true then, If I see that something good happens to you, I can conclude that you are doing well with your faith and life.

But, if I see something bad happen to you, you must be hiding something, or falling down in your faith in some major way. Now, this way of thinking isn't exactly confined to Jesus day?

All the way back to the book of Job we see how his friends are convinced he had done something to deserve all the pain and misery heaped upon him.

In some ways it would be great if it were so simple! But you know, it just doesn't work that way.

I think of so many people in our little congregation, faithful, God fearing, forgiven and redeemed sinners, who have suffered so much.

Losing loved ones, facing unemployment, terrible diseases. These aren't the direct result of sin, but the sinful, fallen condition of life in this world. Jesus said;

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Then Jesus immediately sets about displaying the work of The Light of the World in this man.

Having said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made mud. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said;

"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam". So he went and washed and came back now seeing."

This is more than a medical miracle. This was a life transformation like we can't imagine.

Soon after he was born, this man's parents would have been so heartbroken to learn that their son would be disabled.

There were no therapists, or seeing-eye dog programs, or government programs available to help him.

He would be destined to be a beggar, to eek out a subsistence living for the remainder of his life.

On top of all this, instead of first being compassionate, people would question what he, or his parents had done to deserve this terrible fate. Can you imagine!

The next section made me laugh when I picture it being played out. “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?”

Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” The man kept saying, “I am the man.”

Here people were arguing back and forth. This is him! No way, it couldn't be! All the while the man was standing there saying; I'm right here, it's me.

They ask him how it could be, and he again says; The man called Jesus made mud, anointed my eyes and said, Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.

So I went and washed and received my sight. They said to him, Where is he, meaning Jesus? He said, I do not know.

Well, this obviously wasn't a good enough answer for them so they call in the big guns. They brought the man who had formerly been blind to the Pharisees.

Now because it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened the man's eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight.

Again he said, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 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?” Because of all this confusion a division grew among them.

So they said again to the blind man, What do you say about him meaning Jesus, since He has opened your eyes? He said, “He is a prophet.”

And here we begin to see one of the main points of this account. That is this man was born not able to see.

We can now begin to see how much worse it is to be spiritually blind. And this is exactly the condition these Pharisees were in.

What was their main concern upon hearing that this man was miraculously healed? Not wow, that's wonderful!

Or, "please tell me more about the man who did this! No, for many of them, their main concern was that this man did this on the Sabbath day.

No one is supposed to work on the Sabbath! First off, Jesus wouldn't break the Commandment, what he did violate was the rules about the Sabbath.

A rule that the Pharisees had made, not the laws God made. Secondly, aren't we missing the point just a bit here?

This was tricky as John tells us, "The Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be the Christ, he was to be put out of the Synagogue."

Now understand that this didn't just mean they weren't allowed in the building or the worship service, but that they would be shunned by their society.

Terrifying thought! So they just relate the facts, "We know this is our son and that he was born blind.

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.

When are these Pharisees going to get the point? Just leave it alone, or better yet, be happy for the man and try to find out more about Jesus.

But Jesus threatens their assumptions, and their notions about themselves and their self-righteousness, and self made rules, and their status in society.

Jesus tends to do this to all of us. But these Pharisees are so blinded by all that they have made, and found comfort in, that even the simple truth won't convince them.

And in the following interaction we see the pure folly of refusing to see the truth. Now the Pharisees call this formerly blind man in again to testify.

And they lean into him pretty hard with a leading statement, "Give glory to God tell us the truth, we know this man is a sinner.

Thinking with their status, they once again focus on getting this man to condemn Jesus.

This poor man, for all that he lacks, and all the knowledge he doesn't have, is armed with the truth.

And with this truth, he once again utterly disappoints the Pharisees, he answered, "Whether he meaning Jesus is a sinner I do not know.

One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." You might not be concerned with my healing, but I sure am! Try arguing with my eyes!

The frustration on behalf of the Pharisees begins to rise: "They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

They have no idea what they are getting into. This quiet, lowly, beggar, is quiet no more! "He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become one of his disciples?"

Was he being serious or poking and prodding them, either way, Oh, boy, here we go! "And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

They actually think calling this guy a follower of Christ is an insult, when it's the nicest thing they could ever say of the man.

They also show how ignorant they are of what Moses actually preached, taught, and proclaimed, which was that the Messiah was coming!

The Pharisees, in their ignorance say, “we know.” And this man in all his supposed ignorance, calls them to the carpet: “The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing!

You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners.

But if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.

If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” Having nothing to answer back, the Pharisees take us all the way back to the beginning of the story.

They attack this man as having suffered because he was sinful. “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.”

Think about this. The religious leaders throw this man out. This man who had nothing. Who had just experienced a miracle.

They throw him out because he won't play their game, because he won't just shut up and go along, because he won't sacrifice what he knows to be true in order to keep up their illusion of righteousness.

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And here we get to see such a drastic contrast. Where the Pharisees throw this guy out, the Savior seeks him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

Jesus proclaims the truth of who he is with the same lips that healed this man. And this man who had nothing, finds that this Jesus has come to give him more than physical sight.

He has come to remove the blinders in his soul to all that God offers him. All that is truly good, and eternal, and perfect, and holy.

And this man sees this truth and does the only appropriate thing. He worships his God.

The Pharisees reject this call, preferring the comfort of their blinders, the false security of their man-made laws, their status and great knowledge of the Scriptures.

Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains. Amen

The peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen