

Text: John 9:1-17

Theme: The Power of a Little Mud

March 26, 2017

As you think back to the days when you were a child, how many of you remember making mudpies? How many of you were so proud of your mudpie creation that you felt the need to show it to your Mom or Dad? There was a day, perhaps many years ago, when a little mud was a big deal. In our Gospel, Jesus uses a little mud to do the miraculous. Aware that our simple mudpies of the past won't work in the same way, we focus on this miracle and our theme: The Power of a Little Mud.

I. As is evident from our text, when God acts, incredible things happen. A. Yet surrounded by the evidence, we still fail to believe His power. 1. We fail because we were born in sin. Notice the words in our text, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" However you answer that question, sin is present. Like it or not, we were born in sin. It arrived the moment we arrived. It's not the direct cause of illness or other health issues, yet it's present in your life, in my life, in the lives of every person you meet during the week. Because of that sin, we fail and one of our greatest failures is that we fail to believe in the power of God.

2. We fail to believe His power because we are busy analyzing our circumstances. The disciples' question was a fair question in their minds, but they didn't understand that it wasn't a proper question in the mind of Jesus. As we face challenges that no one else seems to face, we are quick to ask, "Why me?" We want an explanation because if we find an explanation, we think we can fix our situation. Yet while we're preoccupied with finding an answer to the unanswerable question, we're focusing, not on God's power to help us, but on ourselves, and as the focus remains on us, we fail to realize the power God has at His fingertips.

3. We fail because we expect a quick fix. How many of you like to face cancer, heart attacks, strokes, and the like? How many of you would give almost anything to find a quick fix for your current health issues? Consider the blind man in our text. How many years had he been blind? Couldn't Jesus have healed him years earlier? Because we're so intent on finding a quick fix, we tend to focus on our power, on the medical technology we have around us, on someone somewhere who can fix what is dreadfully broken. But while we're looking for our quick fix, the power of God is being overlooked because we think a quick fix is the only proper solution.

B. Although we fail to believe in God's power, why is there power in a little mud?

1. There's power because the act is being done by God. If you had been there in that moment, could you have made some mud and gave the man back his sight? Could you have even given him a tiny bit of his sight? That moment was overflowing with power because God had stepped into that moment, because the power of God was at work. When God steps in, nothing is impossible. Anything is likely when God is on the scene. The same is true for us. When God steps into our situations no matter how simple or complex, things will happen that only God could make happen.

2. There's power because God is using that moment as a teaching moment. Look back at our text. How does Jesus answer His disciples? "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed to him." Jesus doesn't heal randomly. When He heals, it has a particular purpose. In this

instance, healing occurs because God uses it as His perfect teaching moment. Imagine the joy in that man's heart when he could see. But more importantly, look at the teaching moment it created then and the teaching moment it creates yet today. That little bit of mud in that moment has created lessons of learning that still continue today.

3. There's power in a little mud because we believe there's power in a little mud. What specific instruction did Jesus give to the blind man after He put mud on his eyes? He said, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." Now, couldn't Jesus have simply told him to open his eyes? Why did the blind man go? Because he believed Jesus could heal him. How many people in our community have been miraculously healed because they believed God could heal them? If you don't believe God can heal, it won't happen. However, when we believe there's power in the word of God, we set ourselves in the proper place for God to do a miracle if that's what is best in that moment.

C. Realizing the power of a little mud, what does it motivate us to do? 1. It motivates us to do what God needs us to do. When the blind man received his sight, did he go back to his spot along the road? Suddenly, he could see, and suddenly, he had a brand new set of tasks courtesy of Jesus. We may not be that blind man, yet we still have work to do, work just as important as that blind man. As we more fully understand that God can and will do what He chooses to do when our hearts are filled with faith, we take up our task each morning saying, "Today, I will offer God my very best as if it were the first day after His last miracle in my life!"

2. It motivates us to pray for another miracle. If you had been that blind man, would you have gone about your life thinking nothing of that event or responded by praying for another miracle? Miracles motivate more miracles. Praying for another miracle puts us in the proper frame of mind, the proper place for God's next miracle. However, before we think we can use prayer to manipulate God, we need to remember that praying for the next miracle doesn't guarantee His next miracle. God wants us to pray and as we pray, we allow God to do His next miracle whenever and wherever He chooses.

3. The power of a little mud motivates us to expect God's next miracle. Does God schedule miracles? Can we place them on our iPhone with a reminder that His next miracle is scheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 am? Does that mean we shouldn't be in expectation mode? How many football greats become great by accident? After hours and hours of practice and dedication, only a few emerge. Oftentimes, we fail to see God's next miracle because we haven't chosen to show up for practice. When we constantly keep our hearts in preparation mode, when we regularly meet with our God and build our relationship with Him, that's when we are most prepared for His next miracle.

4. Our childhood mudpies will never enable even one person to regain their sight. But when God chooses to act, using whatever means He chooses, there's power, power in something as simple as a little mud. Amen.