

# Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

*Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).*

The speaker this week shared about the time when Jesus was walking out of church, and he saw a blind man. Then Jesus spits in some dirt, makes some mud, rubs the mud on the blind man's eyes, and tells him to go take a bath in the Sent Pool. The blind man obeyed and returned with his eyesight restored!

Next, the blind man begins to teach the teachers of the law about becoming a disciple of Jesus. Somewhere between the mud in his eyes and the Sent Pool bathwater, this blind man's life was radically changed. And not just because he received his sight, but because He had an encounter with the Lord of lords and the King of kings. The next time someone tells you the Word of God is a lie, you tell them to read John 9. You can't make this stuff up!

At the end of the message, the speaker closed with a promise: "The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down." (Psalm 146:8) This promise is difficult to claim in the days we are living through. It seems with every news cycle, there is another cloud of confusion to blind us, another heavy burden to weigh us down. If you feel blinded by the confusion of the world or if you are weighed down, I want to share some good news with you today! Jesus has some mud ready to rub in your eyes.

But why the mud? And why the bath in the Sent Pool? In addition to Jesus "working" on the Sabbath to challenge the burdensome rules of the Pharisees, I believe Jesus was also providing a principle for all of us on how we should deal with the difficulties of life. We must do the next right thing. For the blind man, the next right thing was to obey and go wash in the Sent Pool. I wonder if he did not obey Jesus in this, would his sight have been restored? What I am certain of is this: when we are obedient to God in the next right thing in our lives, God has a way of doing things we never thought possible. He has a way of opening our eyes to see beyond the news cycles to all that He has planned for us. What some call coincidence or mere circumstance, I believe often are the miracles of God unfolding in our lives as we do the next right thing.

The truth is, Christ is all-sufficient for our lives in the days we live. Christ is more than enough! But how does the knowledge of this truth become evident in our lives daily? It is a daily journey. After you have prayed, spent time in the Word, and trusted the Lord for your day; when you go out to live your life, do the next right thing.

Before Covid, I was really good at planning, thinking about, and worrying about a hundred next things that might happen, but never will. But I wasn't very good at the next right thing. I was always trying to do the next 10 right things. Jesus didn't live this way.

Consider when He fed the five thousand. His disciples came to Him and said, "Hey Jesus, it's supper time. Should we send the people away to get a place to stay for the night and get some food?" Makes sense, right? There were an estimated twenty thousand people there, all waiting to hear or see what Jesus said and did next. He was doing miracles after all! And what did He do next? He said to His disciples, "You feed them?" Did you catch that, the next right thing for the disciples was to feed the hungry, but how did they respond? "Um, Jesus, we only have like five loaves of bread and two fish ... that might feed James and John, but it's not enough to feed all these people."

I'm sure Jesus was tempted at that moment to hang his head in disappointment. I wonder if He gave out a little sigh. Probably not. The next right thing for Jesus was to teach His disciples a very important lesson. "Ok, give me the fish and bread and have all the people sit down on the grass." And He looked to His Father in Heaven and began to speak, "Father, thank you for providing these fish and the loaves of bread..."

Now maybe your next right thing isn't feeding five thousand, but it might be feeding five people who are hungry. Or it just might be doing a simple task in obedience to the Lord that illustrates to the world around you that you love Jesus and you follow Him.

During His first visit to earth, Jesus gave a very small and simple instruction to two of His disciples ... "Go to the village ahead of you and bring me a donkey and her colt." He didn't explain to them He needed this donkey to fulfill prophecy. He didn't explain He would ride the donkey into Jerusalem as the people shouted Hosanna. He didn't explain to them a week later, He would die on a cross, paying the price of our sin. He just said, "Go get them for me, and if anyone gives you any trouble, tell them, 'The Lord needs them.'"

Sometimes our need to understand what's next blinds us and prevents us from partaking in the next right thing God has for us. But, even in exhaustion, or in discouragement, there is something satisfying in completing the next right thing. Who knows, the next right thing you do, just might be something God has prepared in advance for you to do ... a task for you to complete that prepares the way for the second coming of the King.

- Are you weighed down today? The Bible says to cast your cares on the Lord, for He cares for you. Tell the Lord about the burdens weighing you down.
- Has the confusion of the world blinded your eyes? Does your need to understand "why" or "what's next" prevent you from seeing the goodness of the Lord? Run to the Lord, for He will open your eyes and lift you up.
- What is the next right thing the Lord is calling you to do today?

