

Lent Day 17

Monday March 5, 2018

Reading: John 9:1-34

³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

Reflection

Stanley Hauerwas once quipped, “If anyone ever asks you why you believe Christianity is true, tell them my mother told me so.” It might sound silly and it isn’t the kind of apologetics we are used to, but it’s pretty much true. We all have come to faith because someone else has told us of their experience in a way that is invitational for us to believe also.

A man is born blind, not because of his sin or his parent’s sin, but so God might be glorified. That was supposed to be the result of this miracle, glorifying God, but what happened instead? An investigation. Who did it? How? Why? Where is he now? Where’s this man’s parents? Is this actually the same man? It’s very similar to the inquiry Christianity faces in our day. When it all comes down to our answers, we only have a similar answer to this, now seeing, man, “I was a sinner, but now I’m a child of God. I can tell you my story again, but it won’t change anything.” Either you believe or you don’t, but I know God has saved me!”

Christians are a strange people from the perspective of the world. It’s always going to be tempting to be accepted. To have people think we’re normal. But, we’re not. We believe, from the world’s perspective, the impossible. God raised Jesus from the dead and will raise us from the dead because we are in Christ. At the end of the day we cannot prove that — we believe because the Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God — we can only state it. Which is okay because we have been called to announce the good news of Jesus not prove it. That’s why, as N.T. Wright reminds, it’s good news and not good advice. So when they ask you tell them you believe because your mother told you.

Prayer

Open our eyes we pray Lord and let us see your glory. Help us to tell our story of your great redemption with sincerity and concern. Keep us from trying to prove you love us and let us live that love instead. Amen.