

"Mud and Spit" Theology

"Then [Jesus] spit on the ground, made mud with [his] saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, 'Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam' (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!" (John 9:6-7)

Ministry is messy! Why, yes, it sure can be. I have been keenly reminded of that truth by several recent ministry situations. Ministry isn't always as neat and tidy as we'd like it to be. Carpets will get dirty. Things will break or wear out and need to be replaced. We'll see some ugliness in people that we'd rather not see. But even from the mundane, beauty can emerge. After all, where do seeds grow? In the soil.

Jesus used mud and spit to heal a man of his physical blindness. Couldn't he just have used a magic wand or waved his hands and said 'abracadabra' and heal the man? Sure, he could have. He is God, after all. But there is something very earthy about the ministry of Jesus. After all, he was the Word become flesh. He chose to live and minister on our turf, which, by the way, he created. So it only makes sense that Jesus would connect the things of this world with the eternal truth of his kingdom.

If you go a little further in John 9, you discover that the greater point of the healing of the blind man was not just for the blind man's sake. It was also to make a statement about what we see with our spiritual eyes. The Pharisees thought they had God, sin, and sin's consequences all figured out. But they missed what Jesus was doing in their midst. It wasn't about assigning blame, deciding who did something wrong. Instead, it was about seeing the mercy of God in the midst of our messy lives. For the once-blind man, his testimony was very simple: "I once was blind, but now I see!"

In His Amazing Grace,
Pastor David

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