

# Like Son, Like Father

Why in the World, Part 2  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

## Review

The premise of this series is that God decided to become **ONE OF US** – why?

One reason God became one of us was to **COMMUNICATE** and **DEMONSTRATE** what God is like

There are some things that are true about God that you'll never know, unless you **LOOK AT JESUS**

Jesus didn't claim to **HAVE** the best explanation for God; Jesus claimed to **BE** the best explanation of God

1 John 1:14 (NAS) "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,..."

1 John 1:18 (NIV) "No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known."

**Homework** – Pick and read one of the gospels and ask this question: "What do I learn about the **FATHER** from the **SON**?"

You will never get closer to understanding God, than **JESUS**

## Three Things We Learn About God From Jesus – John 9:1-38

John 9:1-2 (NIV) As He went along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'"

The assumption in that day was bad things were always the result of **SIN**

John 9:3 (NAS) "Jesus answered, 'It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.'"

### **1. God sometimes chooses to display His **POWER** through our **PAIN****

John 9:6-7 (NIV) "After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 'Go,' he told him, 'wash in the Pool of Siloam' (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing."

John 9:8-11 (NIV) "<sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, 'Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?' <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was. Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' But he himself insisted, 'I am the man.' <sup>10</sup> 'How then were your eyes opened?' they asked. <sup>11</sup> He replied, 'The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.'"

John 9:12 (NIV) "'Where is this man?' they asked him. 'I don't know,' he said."

John 9:13-16 (NIV) "<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. 'He put mud on my eyes,' the man replied, 'and I washed, and now I see.' <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.'"

Some Christians develop their own theological parameters and put God **INSIDE**. They have "God in a **BOX**"

John 9:16-24 (NIV) "...But others asked, 'How can a sinner perform such signs?' So they were divided. <sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, 'What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' The man replied, 'He is a prophet.' <sup>18</sup> They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. <sup>19</sup> 'Is this your son?' they asked. 'Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?' <sup>20</sup> 'We know he is our son,' the parents answered, 'and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.' <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> That

was why his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' <sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. 'Give glory to God by telling the truth,' they said. 'We know this man is a sinner.'"

You can spend the rest of your life living under **FALSE** assumptions about God, apart from Jesus

Some think until you understand **EVERYTHING**, you can't believe **ANYTHING** about Christianity – not true

John 9:25 (NIV) "He replied, 'Whether He is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!'"

John 9:26-27 (NIV) "<sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, 'What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?' <sup>27</sup> He answered, 'I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become His disciples too?'"

John 9:28-33 (NIV) "<sup>28</sup> Then they hurled insults at him and said, 'You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!

<sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where He comes from.'

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

If God doesn't fit your religious system, can you not broaden your thinking just a bit to the fact that maybe God is **BIGGER** than you **IMAGINE** God to be?

John 9:34 (NIV) "To this they replied, 'You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!' And they threw him out."

## 2. God extends **MERCY** beyond **THEOLOGY**

When theology becomes an obstacle to mercy, **ADJUST** your theology

We would never understand just how broad and deep God's mercy is if it weren't for Jesus showing up and correcting our **THINKING**

If your belief allows you to mistreat others, you are guilty of **MISBELIEVING** and **MISBEHAVING**

Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV) <sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

## 3. God takes **PERSONAL** interest in **INDIVIDUAL** people

Jesus went looking for the man He healed because individuals **MATTER** to your Heavenly Father

John 9:35-38 (NIV) "<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when He found him, He said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' <sup>36</sup> 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, 'You have now seen Him; in fact, He is the one speaking with you.' <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped Him."

Once upon a time, God was one of us...for a **REASON**

### **My Next Step Today Is:**

- I will take the challenge to read a gospel & ask "What do I learn about the Father from the Son?"
- I will spend some time this week reflecting on how God has shown me mercy & how He has taken a personal interest in me

**Next week:** Join us as we continue to answer the question, "Why in the World did Jesus Come?" Invite a friend!

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