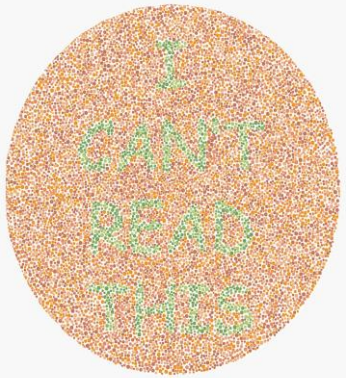
Life Church Sermon, Nov 15 ,2026 By Rev. M. Dixon, PhD.





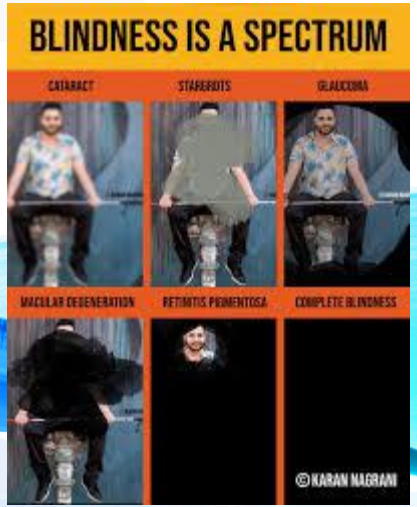
Week 3 John 9

The Covenant of Sight, Light, Right, Godly Might and Delight.

Embodied by Generosity, a King's Invite, a widow's mite, Loving Requite.

Jesus' Upside down Covenant, breaks down the Barrier of Healing… by generously giving it, even on the Sabbath! Jesus' Covenant is one we must Choose before our minds are wired to a different Boss!

Hell is a place where People Choose their view and therefore their sickness over being healed, because they Think they are healed. Cognitive Dissonance.



WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK? PLANES WERE GROUNDED, MICROSOFT BROKE. BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR US

- We often think in terms of sins and punishments… But God does not focus on Sins We celebrate tough Coaches, and discipline.
- That Said, We have a tendency to think about who is the best, We have a tendency to get angry and strike out at people Even if it is just in our heads, etc.
- We often think of people in terms of Us and them, but we have to be careful to make sure we are not thinking in terms of God's way and idolatry…. Sins can be forgiven, But eventually Idolatry Can't be- God gives us to our Choices…
- Everyone wants to know when Jesus is coming back… Why has God not sent him back yet… Prophecies, but also we are in a Period of Grace. God wants all to come to him, but we must choose!
- Hell was designed for Satan and his angels (as judgement), But is it a Place people choose (not just a judgement but our Boss Choice), because we get to choose our Boss. We may think we Choose God, but we can actually Choose a Mental model that shuts him out…. Like one where he can't heal on the Sabbath!







THE UPSIDE DOWN COVENANT, DOESN'T GET CAUGHT UP IN MINISTRY! BUT PEOPLE!

The Pharisees were Stuck doing Ministry,
Not in rejoicing that the man had his site.

This is Hell! Spearation from God.
What would happen if we loved Ministry more than God?
What would happen if we were performative in our ministry and agendas and Schedules, rather than sensitive to what God is doing around us, and intentional about serving other authentically?



JOHN 9:
WEEK #3 SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Spiritual Blindness

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he
found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may
believe in him."

37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one
speaking with you."

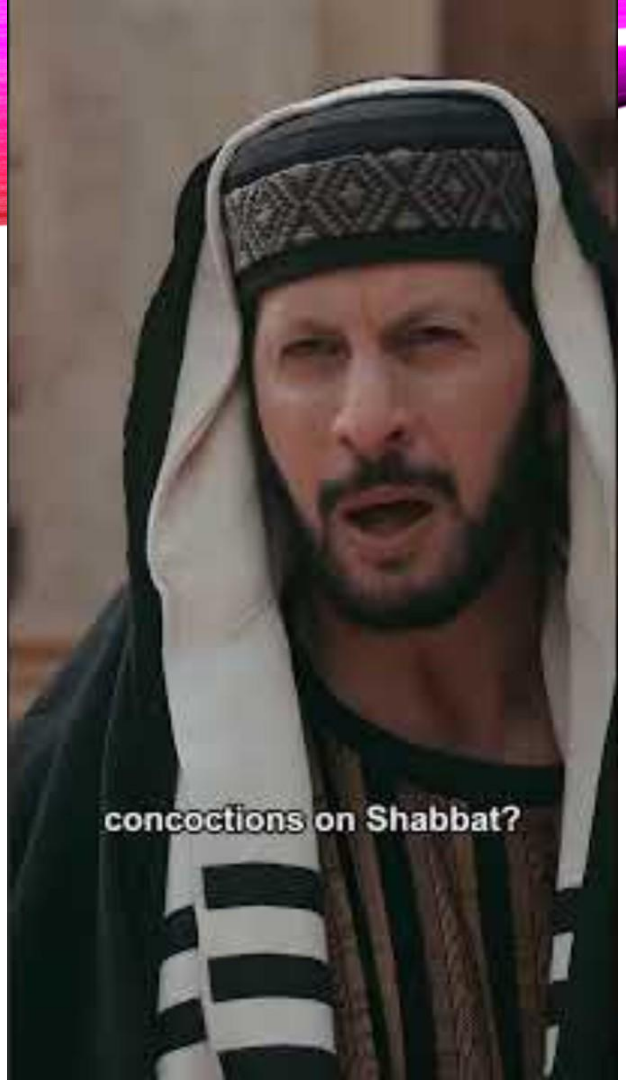
38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped
him.

39 Jesus said,[a] "For judgment I have come into this world, so
that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and
asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of
sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

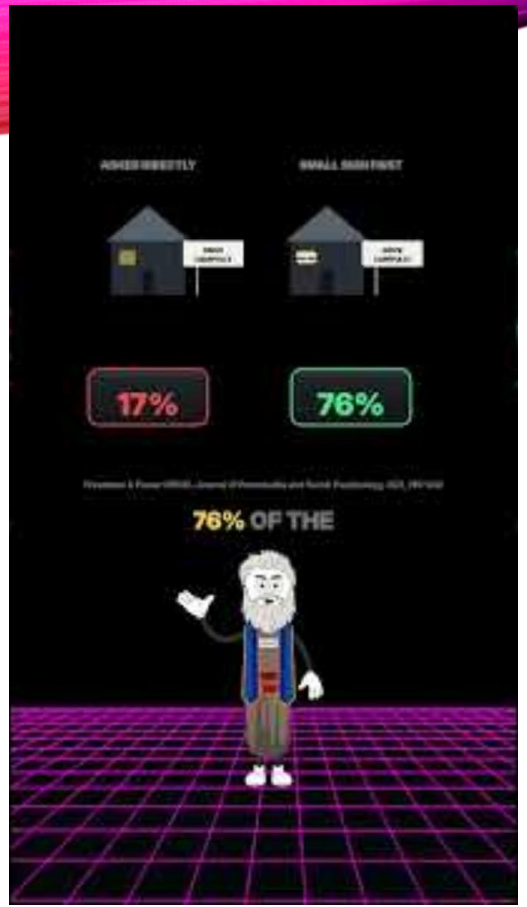
JOHN 9



Jesus' Reprimand (revisited), exemplifies not just a mindset, but a Boss, and it is NOT Satan. It is Human Pride… If that Cognitive Dissonance get's filtered too Long, then we can get stuck in it… God can give us over to our Idolatry and Greed, Like He did with Esau, or transform us with our Service to others and discipleship.

The Story of the Obedient Donkey… and the 2x4… We have been dealing with Idolatry in our Country for a while now… Some Might say Gas prices and war, etc. was the 2x4 some needed to wake up…

The Idols of others are often easier to see than our own. Humility is key, Going to God as your source is key, NOT scripture (as filtered through Tradition)… Did they pray- God We have our tradition Please give us a 2x4 needed to help us see? If Pharisees prayed that prayer… THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN THEIR 2x4.



POSITIVE EXAMPLES OF JUDGING WITH EMPATHY.

WHY DO PEOPLE GO OFF THE RAILS? FOLLOW CULTS? GOD TURNS US OVER TO OUR SINS

THE LIFE OF A PARTNER

To the Church in Ephesus (Partner Check in Meeting)

2 "To the angel[a] of the church in Ephesus :

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. **5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.** If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. 6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Covenant= Partnership

1. TO THE ANGEL- the executor of the Covenant with the Church (at Ephesus), This State of the Partnership Address!
2. These are **the words of the CEO (OUR CHOSEN BOSS)-** the one who holds the 7 Major church partnerships, and walks among the Lampstands which Represent to Covenant/ Partnership with God. The Churches are to be lights unto the World… But that light is also a harkening to the symbol of the Covenant… Gen 15, where God Gives Abraham the land of 10 other Peoples! They were replaced by Abram!

GEN 15: 17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, **a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.** 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi[e] of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites." (10 TRIBES- Like the 10 Tribes of Israel that God Divorced!!!!) and they are warnings to Churches- You can be divorced from the partnership! God HATES divorce, as seen with Pagan people like the Amorites who he sends Jonah to, in order to get them to repent, if for no other reason, the children!

Where do you put a torch on a lampstand! Our light is the light of Jesus.

PARTNERSHIP MEETING NOTES WITH CHURCH AT EPHESUS CONTINUED

3. The Partnership Requires 3 Main Components!

A. **Being Willing to Suffer for the partnership and not deny it for the sake of expedience!**
B. **Not to Forsake the authentic relationship the Partnership is based on… Love… Like loving your spouse… No going after others… Loving the partnership, not just making a blood connections, but a relational connection! God can make Descendants from rocks…**
C. **Love and Hate the TEACHINGS and People God Loves and hates! Love all image bearers implicitly, but call out all who follow a compromised Faith… Liberal or Conservative… The Nicolaitans were BOTH…**

Core Practices **and Teachings of the Nicolaitans… Conquerors of the People… Hierarchy! Building a wall between the pulpit and the Pew… This is very much against High Church… but also against Sadducee like Compromise!**

Idolatry and Compromise: They encouraged Christians to participate in Roman civic and pagan religious life, including eating food sacrificed to idols (*haliothotheta*). [1, 2]

Sexual Immorality: They promoted licentiousness, antinomianism (the belief that Christians are not bound by moral laws), and engagement in ritual or pagan sexual immorality. [1, 2, 3]

Abuse of Grace: They twisted the Christian doctrine of grace into a "free pass" to sin while claiming spiritual freedom. [1, 2]

Clergy-Laity Hierarchy: Later church traditions (such as those noted by Irenaeus and Hippolytus) also associated them with establishing a rigid division or dominance of a hierarchical clergy over the general laity (derived etymologically from *nikos* meaning "victory/conquer" and *laos* meaning "the people"). [1, 2, 3]

PARTNERSHIP MEETING NOTES WITH CHURCH AT EPHESUS CONTINUED

4. **I see how you are trying to take care of our partnership!** _ You have persevered hardships, for the partnership's sake… and you have hated the **Nicolaitans PRACTICES & Teachings** (Not the People) ! You haven't forsaken the partnership and are willing to suffer for it! This is how Jesus operated with the Sadducees and Pharisees… He called them out for their misplaced Priorities!
5. **BUT YOU Forgot your first love… This partnership is not about RULES or Teachings, or even suffering, but about being excited for the Partnership! Like falling in love, your young love and energy were there at first, but time and world have choked that love from you.. Repent and renew your vow to the Partnership, or I will DIVORCE you (BREAK OUR COVENANT EBCAUSE OF YOUR CHOICE), and remove your lampstand, Like I divorced Adam and kicked him out of the Garden, The people during Noah's day lost in the Flood, The 10 Tribes, The Exile of the 2 Tribes, etc. THE PROPHETS all came to say what is going on in Rev. 2. Don't forget your first love, or YOU are choosing to break Our Partnership. I (God) can be patient, I will correct and give space for repentance, but you have to choose me back. I will not force myself on you…**
6. **This is a prophetic/Covenantal official call to choose! therefore LISTEN and ACT on this Call to Choose, and fix things!**
7. **TO THE ONE WHO IS TRULY NIKOS (Victorious- like the root word of Nicolaitans), who go through the suffering and Love God and their partnership with him even more… To them he will reward- the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the home of the partnership!**

THIS WAS NO ORDINARY MIRACLE… IT WAS A FIGHT OVER THE NATURE OF THE COVENANT WITH GOD! NOT BY WORKS BUT BY GRACE… JESUS DIDN'T JUST HEAL BROKEN EYES, BUT GAVE HIM NEW ONES!

WHY Mud and Spittle… It was not a show…

It was Righteous Defiance!

- **Creation and New Life:** Using dust and spittle echoes Genesis 2:7, where God formed humanity from the dust of the earth. Jesus was performing a physical "re-creation" or forming of eyes for a man born without them. [1, 2, 3]
- **Breaking Sabbath Laws:** The Pharisees forbade kneading dough or making mud (*pēlon*) on the Sabbath. By mixing the clay, Jesus intentionally confronted the rigid, legalistic traditions of the religious authorities and showed He is Lord of the Sabbath. [1]
- **Symbolism of Obedience:** Jesus instructed the man to wash the mud off in the Pool of Siloam, which translates to "sent". The action tested the man's faith and mirrored how Jesus Himself was sent by the Father. [1, 2, 3]
- **Using Ordinary Means:** Rather than just speaking a word from a distance, Jesus used a tangible, physical method to show that God often works through ordinary, physical elements in the world. [1]

We are the Covenant!

Isaiah 49: **8** This is what the LORD says:
"In the time of my favor I will answer you,
and in the day of salvation I will help you;
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people,
to restore the land
and to reassign its desolate inheritances,
9 to say to the captives, 'Come out,'
and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'
"They will feed beside the roads
and find pasture on every barren hill.

JOHN 9 SUMMARY

John 9

Week 1 – Why was this man born blind?
Covenant & Why this miracle is special, and a fight between a Grace Covenant and a Works based faith!

Week 2-
The Investigation- and Humors- Humor connects people. Teasing is a big part of it. Not taking ourselves too Seriously, but the things that are most important!

Week 3
The Condemnation of the really Blind… sinners… by Choice.

Week 4
Putting it all together to change our mindset from law to grace, and who we need to shine for and who to stand against.

John 9 Going from works to Grace…

Week 1- God's Determined Grace… for Partnership

Week 2- Why the Law doesn't work… It takes the fun out of living! Don't stop kids from coming to me… They know how to have fun! Nicknames, gentle teasing.. Seeing others and their voice and valuing it… it becomes terms of endearment, not hatred.

Week 3- Job was not about suffering… it was about how his friends responded! Who sinned that Job would need to be punished? Sound familiar. Then God judges the Friends… The Story of Jonah, was less about the Assyrians than it was about Jonah… It showed God's grace, but they do get destroyed eventually… Jonah showed the stripes of Israel's heart.

Week 4- Who do we love, but have to fight against? I had to get angry at my brother in law not too long ago… I love him, and he respects me, but I had to put my foot down… Where are those moments?



MEET THE NEW BOSS…

The Trouble with Idolatry is that is hidden in Plain site…

The Company handbook, said the Boss was sending someone to fix things…

The Mind map of how the Boss was sending someone, was set in the minds of Many, so much so, it became an Idol… A new Boss. You work for the company for the Person who signs your Checks… If you follow after another God, you have your reward/Check from them.

APPLYING WHAT WE KNOW:

Questions Designed to help up Change how we and others think… In terms of Connecting and Respecting via humor.

Week 3: John 9: 35-41 Idolatry Changes us, rewires our brains. This Chapter was less about Blindness than it was Idolatry. The Sin of the Pharisees was not Godlessness, but Idolatry of a Religion over God. That Idolatry created a blindness via Cognitive Dissonance, that gave them over to their Idolatry, so they could not see they were blind! If they new they were blind, they could ask Jesus to heal them, but because they didn't know, they were in grave danger! If you were born to a Racist family, and your brain was wired to hate white or black people, How would you know you were wrong? We are born with a conscience, and a measure of faith, but we have to have our minds rewired. Jesus went to Pharisees house often, especially since he was someone they hated… It was an act of kindness, because you discipline and correct those you love.

- Has there been a Time you were Very wrong about something, and someone had to correct you and you had a hard time changing what you thought?

- CS Lewis' Great Divorce talks about Heaven and Hell being the Home & Break rooms for our Boss. We Cling to our Idols in Hell, and to God's Grace in heaven, but in Both cases Our Choice decides our Fate. What Idols do people in our modern world have, and we have to be careful of ourselves because we are still in process.

- Why is suffering and Discipline essential to the faith and such a blessing to those who believe?

NEXT TIME ON SHINING BRIGHT

- The Dangers of Focusing on the Right or the Left, versus God…
- Spiritual Blindness… Do we live in a spiritual world or a Physical one?

