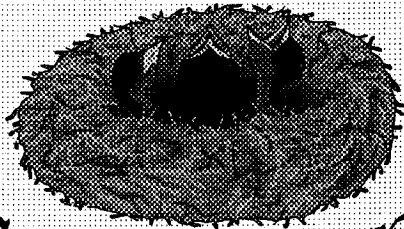
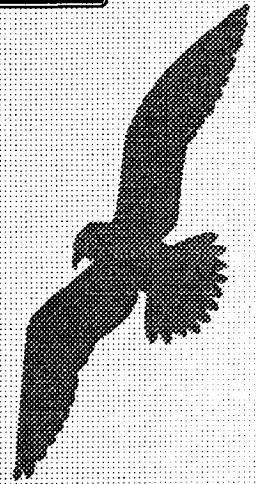


April 2006

*'They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

Dear Friends

Jesus Heals the Man Who Was Born Blind

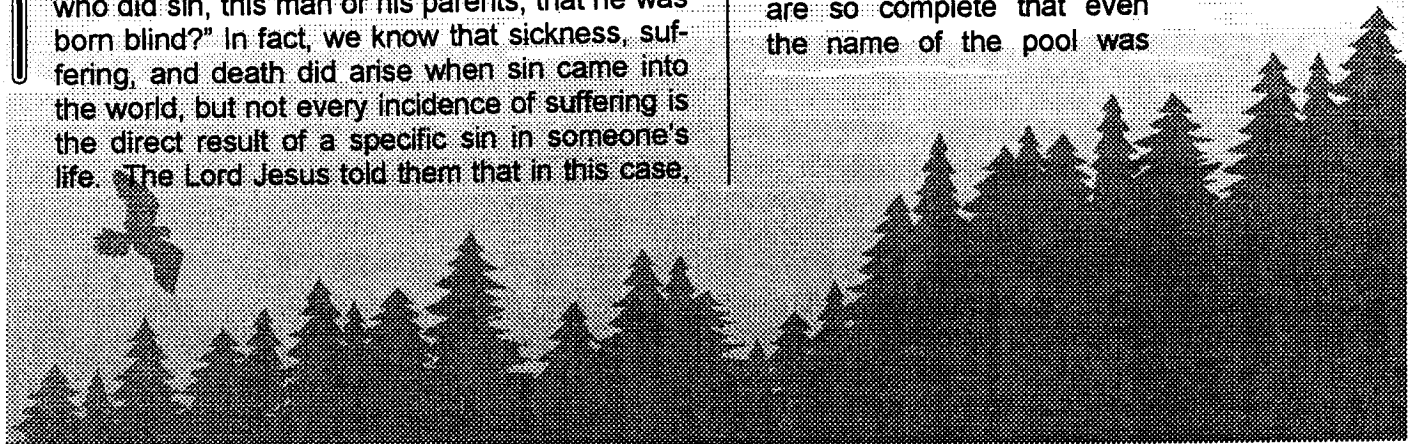
Please read John 9: 1-25

As we begin this portion, we find the Lord Jesus walking with His disciples in Jerusalem. As they walked, they came upon a man who was born blind. In those days, a man who was blind led a very humble life indeed. The most common occupation for such a person would have been that of a beggar, dependent upon the kindness of others for food and most of the other essentials of life. This blind man would have been considered a weak and very insignificant man in the eyes of his countrymen. But on this day, God would use this humble man and his blindness to give a powerful message to the people regarding the Lord Jesus.

At this point, the disciples asked the question that was on their minds (verse 2), "Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" In fact, we know that sickness, suffering, and death did arise when sin came into the world, but not every incidence of suffering is the direct result of a specific sin in someone's life. The Lord Jesus told them that in this case,

this man had been allowed to be born blind so that the mighty works of God might be manifest in him. Isn't that a comfort when you think about it? There may certainly be times when we bring suffering upon ourselves due to sin in our lives, but there are also things that are unpleasant in our lives that arise simply because we live in a fallen world. Isn't it a comfort to know that God can use even the most difficult and unpleasant events in our lives to show His power and glory? God often uses the weak and insignificant things of this world to show His mighty works. What a privilege it is to be used of God! On this day, the Lord Jesus used a blind beggar to bring out a powerful testimony concerning Himself before the people.

We read then in verses 6-7 that the Lord Jesus made clay of mud and spittle and anointed the man's eyes. I don't know why He did this. It would have been a humbling type of treatment to be sure, but the man apparently had faith and was willing. The man was instructed to go wash in the pool of Siloam, which we are told is interpreted "sent." Scripture is so amazing! God's plans are so complete that even the name of the pool was



part of the plan . The man was sent to wash in this pool, and the symbolism seems appropriate enough. The Lord Jesus was the Sent One who came into the world to open our eyes and to remove the spiritual darkness that blinded us. This man had *faith to obey Jesus, and after* washing in the pool as he was told to do, we read that he *came seeing*.

Those that were with him could not believe what had just happened! There was no previous record of any man born blind ever being healed, so this was a great miracle indeed, and the greatness of the thing was not lost on the crowd. They knew the one who had sat in their midst and begged. Now he could suddenly see as well as anyone else, and they were astonished!

When asked what had happened, the blind man got his first chance to testify, and he did not waste the opportunity. We read in verse 11 that he told the story of what the "man who is called Jesus" did, and what the miraculous results were. Do you know about the man who is called Jesus? He came into this world to give you life (John 3:16).

For whatever the reason, these people took the man to the Pharisees (verse 13) to show them what had happened, and this was all on the Sabbath day. The Pharisees had certainly heard about Jesus, but they were not anxious to believe on Him. They asked the man for the story, and now the second time, this man was able to tell about the wonderful things Jesus had done for him. It was a very simple testimony by a very simple, uneducated man, but it had quite an effect. Please note this. We do not have to be prominent in the eyes of this world to be used of God; the Lord Jesus does not need the mighty of the earth to tell His story. He uses common, ordinary people who are willing to be used of Him, and His Word is never without effect. You or I might not be a renowned speaker, but we can certainly tell the love of Jesus—we can say He died for us.

There was then a division among the Pharisees—some felt that Jesus was not from God because He broke the Sabbath to perform the healing; but some others could not see how a sinner could do such mighty works. Never doubt it, a simple testimony of faith is a powerful witness, and it will always force the hearers to make a choice. In this case, the man was asked in verse 17 "what sayest thou of Him?" This man did not have enough knowledge yet to call Him the Christ, but he knew Jesus was sent from God, so he reasoned this was a prophet. But the Pharisees were not convinced and began to question the credentials of the man who had been healed, until they interviewed the parents who testified that it was indeed their son,

and he was indeed born blind, but they would say no more. Having no ground to doubt the story, and no desire to believe it either, the Pharisees ordered the man in verse 24 to "give God the praise. We know that this man is a sinner." When confronted with the truth of Christ, we must all decide for or against Him. The Pharisees had made their choice. What have you done with Christ?

At this point, the man who had been born blind made his strongest testimony yet. In verse 25 we read, "Whether He be a sinner or no, I know not. *One thing I know; that whereas I was blind, now I see.*" Isn't that beautiful? My dear friends, each of us who are saved can say the same thing. This man was simple and unlearned, and he had no capacity to understand the miracle, much less the education to cite all the scriptural references to Messiah that the Pharisees should have known. But he knew what had happened to him, and this simple truth could not be denied. He had been blind, and now he could see, and this by the hand of a man called Jesus. What a day for the blind man!

Is your heart burdened by some affliction that in your mind seems to limit how the Lord can use you? It may be that like Paul, the answer is to hear "And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me," (II Cor 12:9). What joy to know that God can use even the weakest vessel in a powerful way so long as the heart is yielded and willing. We may not have the physical, emotional, or intellectual abilities that we would like, but we can tell someone what Jesus has done for us.

**"Take my life and let it be,
Consecrated, Lord to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise."**

Much love in Christ,

Steven Faulkner

For address correction or free new name addition,

write to:
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury