

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 12

MATTHEW 9:27-31

CONNECT PARTY

Dessert Party Friday, THIS FRIDAY at 6pm

RSVP at connect@ourelement.org

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday: April 14th at 7 and 8pm.

No Childcare available.

Easter: Services on Saturday the 15th at 6pm - nursery care only.
Sunday Morning at 8:15, 9:30 & 11am with full children's programs.

BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING

April 8th, 2017 from 9:00am to 3:00pm, lunch provided.

The goal of this one-day training is to address the challenges we face in our ministries and communities, and equip attendees to better walk alongside others in a way that points them to the Gospel.

Topics include understanding and engaging with suffering, empathy, avoiding assumptions/gathering data, how words work, and utilizing grace, gentleness, and candor.

Childcare is provided with notification.
Questions & RSVP to: gee@ourelement.org

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

AUTHORITY OVER FAITH

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

John 9:25
Matthew 7:28-29
Matthew 9:27-31
Hebrews 12:2
Ephesians 2:8-9

John 9:1-2
Amos 3:6
Lamentations 3:38
Mark 1:40-41
Mark 10:47
Matthew 9:2

Mark 3:5
Isaiah 53:5
John 9:39-41
Matthew 6:23
Hebrews 12:2

March 26, 2017

www.ourelement.org

AUTHORITY

OVER FAITH

WEEK 12 SERMON NOTES

Blindness is not something we typically think about in our day to day life; we take vision as a given. There are different degrees of blindness. Someone can be legally blind but still see colors, shapes, and varying degrees of light. In fact, only about 10-15 percent of people who are blind see nothing at all. In the scriptures “blindness” usually refers to someone with no sight at all.

Do you know someone who is blind or visually impaired?

Do they see the world in different ways than you do?

Fewer than 2 percent of visually impaired people use a white cane to navigate. The rest use guide dogs or nothing at all. A recent survey by the World Health Organization shows that 80 percent of vision problems worldwide could be avoided or even cured with prompt medical care and regular eye examinations. In particular, a leading cause of blindness among adults over 50 is cataracts, which are treatable with surgery.

People who are blind are just as likely as anyone else to experience vivid dreams while sleeping; the difference is that their dreams are dominated by sounds, smells and tastes. A Danish study also suggests that people who are blind must endure significantly more nightmares than their sighted counterparts. As many as 70 percent of people who are blind in the United States experience non-24-hour sleep-wake disorder – a condition where a person’s circadian rhythm is out of alignment with conventional sleep schedules, causing insomnia at night or the urge to sleep during the day.

Read Matthew 9:27-31.

Most often we have the exact opposite problem as the men in this passage; we never talk about Jesus to those around us.

What do you tend to get excited and talk to people about?

Why is it hard to be excited about Jesus in the same way?

How would you talk about Him if you were excited about Him?

We have to understand that it is NOT our faith that saves us, it is the OBJECT of our faith. What does Jesus mean when he says “*According to your faith be it done to you?*” It means that they actually believed in Him as the Messiah. It was the OBJECT of their faith, Jesus, that was the factor behind the healing of their blindness. They are crying out for Him to heal them and they call Him, “son of David,” that is a messianic term; they believed Jesus was the Messiah.

When Jesus becomes the OBJECT of our faith our life begins to change; we begin to truly see. Jesus touches us and changes us just like He does throughout the Scriptures. Before healing the men of their blindness, Jesus touches them. That is the amazing thing about Jesus, He was always touching people. He didn’t have to touch them, He WANTED to touch them, to remind them that God may have all authority in the world, but that He also CARES for them.

Have you ever felt God’s touch?

Jesus came to proclaim and manifest the kingdom of God, and that meant noticing, not just healing. Jesus hands His mission off to a community called the Church where He intends for it to grow because of our faith in Jesus. In the scriptures, Jesus touches and heals blindness, but you see the opposite happen with the Pharisees and religious leaders; they claim to be able to see and yet refuse Jesus’ touch spiraling them further into blindness. *Merrill Tenney writes “Deliberate rejection of the light means that “the light within...is darkness.”*

What areas in your life would you say you struggle with blindness?

What are some places that God has enabled you to “see” where you haven’t before?

Pray for one another in the coming week that your eyes would be opened and you would notice those things around you that Jesus wants you to notice.