

Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup

The e-Glue that helps with the glitter

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- Elevation Nights tour: Feb 24–Mar 5 in Hershey (PA), Brooklyn (NY), Indianapolis (IN), Milwaukee (WI), Grand Rapids (MI), Knoxville (TN), Columbus (OH), Rosemont (IL). Tickets: elevationnights.com.
- New album release on 2/20/2026

- John 8:58-59 - Jesus' environment wasn't pain-free

Jesus' Claims About Himself

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

⁴⁹ "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."

⁵² At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

⁵⁴ Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

⁵⁸ "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

John 9:1-11 – Jesus heals a man born blind

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. **4** As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. **5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. **7** “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” **9** Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

11 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.”

12 “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

John 9:1-11 – Jesus heals a man born blind

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

¹⁷ 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."

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ 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." ²² 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. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ 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."

²⁵ 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!"

²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

²⁷ 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?"

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

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

³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

John 9:1-11 – Jesus heals a man born blind

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.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 - – My grace is sufficient for you...

Paul's Vision and His Thorn

⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Opening prayer #1 2/15/2026: "I am peace over your mind in the name of Jesus. I speak power to overcome sin in your life in the name of Jesus. I speak joy over your life in the name of Jesus. Somebody say amen. I receive it. Say God said it. I believe it. That settles it. Now high five, seven people say it's settled. It's settled. I speak salvation over your lost family members in the name of Jesus. Somebody say I receive it. I speak provision over your life in the name of Jesus. My God shall supply every need. I speak wisdom over your life in the mighty name of Jesus. That you would know whether to turn to the right or the left. I speak patience over your life in the name of Jesus. That in the quiet you would know that God who is a roar is also a whisper. I speak Jesus over your life today. Father, we have come together with great expectation. You promised us that if two or three were gathered in your name, you would be in the midst. I know you're all up in this place. And since you're here, take over, God. Do what you want to do. All of our distractions look stupid in your presence. All of our fears get a little smaller when we lift you higher. Now, Jesus, I ask that you would walk through locked doors. I ask that you would speak the words of eternal life.

Opening Prayer #2 on 2//15/2026: Where else can we go? We can't go to the news media. We can't go to them for truth. We can't even go to our best friend. Our best friend doesn't know the future. But we come to you today, all knowing, all wise, all sufficient God, saying that all things are possible with you. I praise you for this time that we've had in your presence. It has been wonderful to sing your truth, to lift your name, and to do it with others, people who are like us and people who are different than us. You've given us a mission in the earth we accept that mission to shine bright the light of Jesus Christ the king of the world the risen one who got up with keys to death hell and the grave who defeated death put it in a chokehold made it tap out and got up with keys we praise you God we came today not to play games but to praise you we came to thank you you've already done so much forgiven our sins. You've healed our diseases. You've redeemed our life from the pit and crowned us with love and compassion. So we came to give you an offering today. Lord of all, you have our attention. You have our affection. Our minds and our hearts belong to you. I give you praise for each person who came to church today. I pray that they would not leave like they came. And I confess it and believe it in Jesus' name.

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

Sermon Summary: Ever feel like you're stuck in a season that isn't moving? God may not be asking you to wait; He may be asking you to act. If you've been delaying your next step because it's messy, uncomfortable, or imperfect, this message will help you move forward.

Sermon Highlights

- **I've got to do the work that God called me to do in the window that God gave me to do it.**
- **The only thing harder than waiting on God is wishing that you had.**
- If you get ahead of God in an effort to obey him, he can close a door and slow you down. If you get behind God because you won't obey him, he'll choose somebody else to use.
- Sometimes we think we're waiting when we're really disobeying. You cannot replace obeying with waiting.
- When God has given you a word, waiting will not change your situation, only washing will.
- Three things you might be waiting on that won't work: Perfect, People, and Pain-free
- The Savior specializes in mud.
- **Stop waiting for perfect and praise Him for progress. Stop waiting for perfect and praise Him for proximity. Stop searching for perfect and start accepting presence.**
- It's muddy, but I've gotta move.
- If you wait in this season for other people to confirm your obedience, you will stay blind.
- Jesus did not perform miracles in a pain-free environment.
- Sometimes He takes away, and sometimes He makes a way.

Scriptures

- John 9:1-11 – Jesus heals a man born blind
- John 8:58-59 - Jesus' environment wasn't pain-free
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 - – My grace is sufficient for you...

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

Sermon Discussion

- “Sometimes we think we’re waiting when we’re really disobeying. You cannot replace obeying with waiting.” Where might God be leading you to move in obedience instead of continuing to wait?
- “Three things you might be waiting on that won’t work: Perfect, People, Pain-free.” Which of these do you tend to wait for the most: perfect conditions, confirmation from people, or a pain-free path?
- “If you wait in this season for other people to confirm your obedience, you will stay blind.” Share a time God asked you to do something, even though others didn’t fully understand it.
- “It’s muddy, but I’ve gotta move.” What area might look messy or unclear right now, and what’s one step you can still take to move forward this week?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, thank You for always speaking to us and guiding us. Please show us the areas where we’ve been waiting instead of obeying, and strengthen us to take the next step that You’ve commanded us to take. As we move forward in the “muddy” areas of our lives this week, please use us to display Your goodness and love to the people around us. We love You and we trust You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

AI generated sermon recap:

Overview: A worship-driven sermon centered on John 9 (the man born blind), contrasting passive waiting with obedient action. The speaker emphasizes that “it doesn't take God long,” and urges listeners to replace indecisive delay with faithful steps—“muddy moves”—especially when Jesus has already given an instruction. Key themes include God displaying His works, acting within the window given, and three situations where waiting will not work: waiting on perfect conditions, on people's approval, or on pain-free circumstances.

Opening Prayer and Declarations

- Spoken blessings “in the name of Jesus”: peace over minds, power to overcome sin, joy, salvation over lost family members, provision, wisdom, patience, and “Jesus over your life.”
- Invokes Matthew 18:20 (two or three gathered): asks God to “walk through locked doors” and speak “words of eternal life,” affirming that media or even friends cannot provide ultimate truth; only God can.
- Praises God for gathering diverse people to sing truth, lift His name, and accept the mission to shine the light of Jesus Christ, “the risen one who got up with keys to death, hell, and the grave.”
- Thanks God for forgiveness, healing, redemption from the pit, and being crowned with love and compassion; offers attention and affection wholly to God and prays that none leave unchanged.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

AI enabled summary

Community Welcome and Announcements

- Marks “the first Sunday of our next decade of ministry” (21st year); calls for hugs and welcomes all campuses and global eFam, inviting viewers to share their city, state, name, and even favorite candy online.
- **Elevation Night 2026: February 24th through Thursday, March 5th in Hershey (Pennsylvania), Brooklyn, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Grand Rapids, Knoxville, Columbus, and Chicago. Team includes Elevation Worship, Elevation Rhythm, the speaker, Holly, and family. Tickets: elevationknights.com.**
- **New Elevation Worship album: available Friday, February 20 on Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, and Pandora. “The wait is over.” Includes songs such as “I call God on the mountain.”**
- Scripture Foundation: John 9:1–7 (and context)
- “As he went along, he saw a man, blind from birth.” Disciples ask, “Who sinned, this man or his parents?” Jesus answers, “Neither ... but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”
- Jesus: “As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me ... While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
- He spits on the ground, makes mud, puts it on the man’s eyes, and commands: “Go ... wash in the pool of Siloam” (“Sent”). The man goes, washes, and returns seeing. Neighbors debate his identity; he insists, “I am the man,” and testifies: “The man they call Jesus made some mud ... told me to go to Siloam and wash ... so I went and washed, and then I could see.”
- Sermon Thesis: “When Waiting Isn’t Working” (Subtitle: “Muddy Moves”)
- “It doesn’t take God long.” God can reverse situations swiftly and completely; the call is to act within the window God provides.
- Process and obedience: The speaker is “process-oriented,” yet warns that labeling disobedience as “waiting” is a common trap. Quote: “You cannot replace obeying with waiting.”
- Debate vs. display: Disciples wanted a theological debate; Jesus saw a display of God’s work. He used common dirt and spit—“mud, not magic”—to bring healing.
- Waiting vs. washing: If Jesus has given a clear instruction, waiting will not change what only “washing” (obedience) can. The healing unfolds at “the place of obedience.”

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

Cautionary Wisdom on Timing and Obedience:

- Leadership anecdotes about adding a second service: counsel received—"The only thing harder than waiting on God is wishing that you had." Another mentor: if you get ahead of God while obeying, He can close the door; if you lag behind in disobedience, He may choose someone else. Conclusion: sometimes we call it waiting when it's really disobeying.
- "It doesn't take God long" applied: from creation in six days to Jericho's walls—God can act in a moment that redeems months of perceived waste.

Three Situations Where Waiting Won't Work

Waiting on perfect:

- Ecclesiastes principle: regarding the wind leads to never sowing. If you wait for perfect timing, conditions, or feelings, you'll never start.
- God starts with dirt: the Genesis 2:7 echo—God formed humans from dust; Jesus healed with mud. Expecting perfection at the start contradicts God's pattern.
- Illustration: modern "perfect church" shopping (even down to "gluten-free communion"); challenge to prize presence and progress over perfection. "Stop waiting for perfect and praise Him for progress ... and proximity."

Waiting on people

- Neighbors and religious leaders doubted the man's healing; Pharisees objected that it happened on the wrong day. Warning: do not wait for others' recognition or approval to obey God.
- Mud motivated movement: without mud to wash off, he might have stayed put. Sometimes messy situations prompt necessary steps.
- Pool of Siloam and self-recognition: sent to "Sent" so that washing would both remove mud and reflect his own face. Before seeing Jesus, he needed to see himself. Do not let others define you by your past; do not wait for their confirmation.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

Waiting for pain-free

- Context: just prior (John 8), crowds sought to stone Jesus; yet He still saw and healed the man. Do not let fear, fatigue, or adversity stop obedience.
- Testimonies and thorns: sometimes God “takes it away”; sometimes He “makes a way.” 2 Corinthians 12—“My grace is sufficient.” Move forward even if the pain remains; praise God “in the middle of it.”
- Practical Imagery and Applications
- “Muddy moves”: imperfect, uncertain steps taken in obedience still qualify as faith. Go, then wash, then see—action precedes clarity.
- Green lights require going: you cannot sing “I’m gonna wait on you” at a green light. When God says “go,” move.
- Unblocking the heart: waiting for healing while refusing to forgive won’t work; bitterness must be “washed” away.
- Seasonal wisdom: “You can’t change the weather; change your wardrobe.” Embrace the reality you’re in and arm yourself accordingly (e.g., “armor of God”).
- Examples of obedient next steps: start the Bible study, contact a counselor, join an eGroup, stop cycling back into destructive relationships, take the step you can see.

Closing Prayer, Invitation, and Response

- Prayer of thanksgiving for “the pool” (God’s word) and for eyes opened. Intercession spanning rooms, campuses, hospitals, dorms, prisons—God’s word moves swiftly; “it doesn’t take [Him] long.”
- Call to surrender and salvation: invitation to receive Jesus; communal prayer: “Heavenly Father, I am a sinner in need of a Savior ... I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world ... I make Jesus the Lord of my life ... I receive this new life. This is my new beginning. I am a child of God.”
- Public response: raise hands; celebration of “the greatest decision” and a “new day.”

Upcoming Steps / Actions

- Read John 9 in full at home for deeper context.
- Take the obedient step God has already shown you—“wash” rather than “wait.”
- Elevation Night 2026 (Feb 24–Mar 5): Hershey (Pennsylvania), Brooklyn, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Grand Rapids, Knoxville, Columbus, Chicago. Tickets: elevationknights.com.
- Stream the new Elevation Worship album on Friday, February 20 via Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, or Pandora.
- Online participants: share city, state, and name in the chat/comments.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

Sermon transcript:

- **Opening prayer #1** “I am peace over your mind in the name of Jesus. I speak power to overcome sin in your life in the name of Jesus. I speak joy over your life in the name of Jesus. Somebody say amen. I receive it. Say God said it. I believe it. That settles it. Now high five, seven people say it's settled. It's settled. I speak salvation over your lost family members in the name of Jesus. Somebody say I receive it. I speak provision over your life in the name of Jesus. My God shall supply every need. I speak wisdom over your life in the mighty name of Jesus. That you would know whether to turn to the right or the left. I speak patience over your life in the name of Jesus. That in the quiet you would know that God who is a roar is also a whisper. I speak Jesus over your life today. Father, we have come together with great expectation. You promised us that if two or three were gathered in your name, you would be in the midst. I know you're all up in this place. And since you're here, take over, God. Do what you want to do. All of our distractions look stupid in your presence. All of our fears get a little smaller when we lift you higher. Now, Jesus, I ask that you would walk through locked doors. I ask that you would speak the words of eternal life.
- **Opening Prayer #2:** Where else can we go? We can't go to the news media. We can't go to them for truth. We can't even go to our best friend. Our best friend doesn't know the future. But we come to you today, all knowing, all wise, all sufficient God, saying that all things are possible with you. I praise you for this time that we've had in your presence. It has been wonderful to sing your truth, to lift your name, and to do it with others, people who are like us and people who are different than us. You've given us a mission in the earth we accept that mission to shine bright the light of Jesus Christ the king of the world the risen one who got up with keys to death hell and the grave who defeated death put it in a chokehold made it tap out and got up with keys we praise you God we came today not to play games but to praise you we came to thank you you've already done so much forgiven our sins. You've healed our diseases. You've redeemed our life from the pit and crowned us with love and compassion. So we came to give you an offering today. Lord of all, you have our attention. You have our affection. Our minds and our hearts belong to you. I give you praise for each person who came to church today. I pray that they would not leave like they came. And I confess it and believe it in Jesus' name.
- Welcome everybody! This is the day that the Lord has made. And not only is it a new day, y'all, this is the first Sunday of our next decade of ministry together. Let's give the Lord a praise for a new day and a new decade. I promise you one thing, everybody who's in on this right now, You're about to see God do some great things.
- I want you to hug somebody, especially if they look like they almost didn't come to church. But they found that wrinkled shirt and put it on and got here anyway. Hug for me. 21 people for our 21st year of ministry. We'll have to move around a little bit, but get it done.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- Welcome to all of our campuses. Welcome to our eFam all around the world. I'm sending you a hug across the internet. A worldwide hug. Let us know where you're coming from, will you? Just put your city and your state and your name. Maybe your favorite candy. I don't know. Put on the list if you had a good Valentine's weekend. If you celebrate that kind of pagan holiday. I'll just play. I'll just play. I'll just play. You know, as we move into this time of worship, I want to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to join us for Elevation Night 2026. Coming up on February 24th. through Thursday, March 5th. And here's where we're going to be heading. And if you know somebody, if you're part of our local church and you know somebody in one of these cities, let them know. Maybe you live close enough to get there. Hershey, Pennsylvania, Brooklyn, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Grand Rapids, Knoxville, Columbus, and Chicago. So help me get the word out.
- We're going to be taking... We're going to be taking our team, Elevation Worship, Elevation Rhythm, me, Holly, the whole family, going out on the road to bring the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to a city near you. Tickets are limited. Go to elevationknights.com. Also, Friday when you wake up, you're going to feel a little tired. You're going to have gone through a whole week, you know, people getting on your nerves, things that happen during a normal week. But if you'll go over to Apple Music or Spotify or Amazon Music or Pandora, and you put in Elevation Worship, you'll find a brand new album waiting for you on Friday, February the 20th. And you'll be singing, I call God on the mountain.
- All these songs that we've been singing for months, and you've been watching the bootleg YouTube videos - that these online pirates put out before we're ready to release it. Well, the wait, tell somebody, the wait is over. The worship is here. Friday, yeah, so be it. I think it's our best album yet. Yeah, yeah, yeah! How many came for a word from God today? Make some noise! I want to draw your attention while you're standing to John chapter 9, please. I've got a brand new Bible. Johnson and Amy gave me a brand new Bible for our 20th birthday.
- So let's take it for a spin and see how it preaches. I was insulted. They gave me a large print Bible. I'm like, what is that supposed to mean? So since it was a large print Bible, I thought I'd preach about the blind man in John chapter nine. I'm so thankful that you're here. John chapter nine is a great chapter and you may do well to read the whole thing when you get home. I'm going to deal with the first half of this story. The scriptures are coming on the screen. As he went along, he saw a man, Jesus saw a man, blind from birth. Can we preach a whole message about that? As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. The man didn't see Jesus, but Jesus saw the man. We could preach a whole sermon on that. About how when you weren't even looking for him, he found you. His disciples, verse 2, asked him, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born alive?
- Neither. Jesus sums up an entire theological library in one word. Neither. Both options are stupid. Neither this man nor his parents sinned. said Jesus. But this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I'm in the world, I am the light of the world. After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with his saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. Go, he pulled, wash in the pool of Siloam.
- This word means sent. So the man went and washed and came home. See, he went and washed and came home. See his neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg? Some claimed that he was others said, no, he only looks like him, but he himself insisted on the man is. How then were your eyes open? They asked. He replied the man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. Yeah, I know it wasn't pretty. I know I didn't see it coming litter.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- He made some mud and put it on my eyes and he told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed and then. I can see, I want to talk to you today about when waiting isn't working. When waiting isn't working, put that in the chat, please. Or the comments. If you're watching later, when waiting is work, not getting better, not healing. When waiting isn't working, nothing's changing. No doors are opening. I want to talk about that today. When waiting isn't working. And I gave the message a subtitle too. The subtitle is muddy moves. Muddy moves. Tell somebody I make muddy moves. Yeah. Father bless your word. In Jesus name. Amen. You may be seated.
- How long would you sit there? If I just came up here, made you wait. Now we need to have an altar call for lying. I do this all day. I mean, they don't even stay until I do my invitation half the time. I'm tripping over people in the back of the parking lot. I'm out all day. No, really, how long would you sit there? You're waiting. Sometimes it's worth the wait. Sometimes it's not. When I first met Holly, she was on a dating probation program - probationary period. And the thing was, she just wanted to take some time to really be anchored in her values when she went to college before she got entangled with somebody who may or may not share those values. Right. And I think that's great because I can attest to the fact that she is absolutely worth the wait. But I was in line and I cut in line and I put her on my ministry team. So whenever the Lord spoke to her that the probation had been lifted and the wait is over, I want him to be the one. Yeah.
- And here we are 27 years of being Valentine's 27 years. You learn a lot about love in 27 years. We learned a lot about Valentine's day. You learned to go out two days before Valentine's day to the restaurant. and be at the restaurant when they're not overbooking the place, putting you at a little table somewhere in the bathroom and charging you full price on Valentine's Day.
- We go out on February 12th. And yet what amazes me is that as long as this woman has known me, there are certain things that she still does not understand about the difference in our dynamic. So when we were going out on our Valentine's Day date, two days early a few days ago, I came upstairs after my workout, And you know, I'm sweating and I'm not ready. And we have to leave for the reservation in just a few minutes. And she's finishing getting ready. And she looks at me and it's like, you know, nicely, she's been trying to do a nice thing. She's like, do you want me to push the reservation back? And I'm like, you need to push the reservation back. How do you not know after all these years of being married to me, that it doesn't take me long. No. I mean, Holly, I love you.
- Thank you for asking, but we both know that you finishing getting ready and me getting ready all the way from the starting point of readiness in the beginning. Like, I can take a shower, get dressed, write a song, support a missionary. In the time you can put on this Lip gloss. I don't know how that works out, but it doesn't take me long. When I get ready, I do it quick. It amazes me in the scripture. How much Jesus did with so little time on earth. You hear in John chapter nine, he makes a statement. As long as I am in the world, I'm the light of the world, but I've got to do the work that God called me to do in the window that God gave me to do it.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- And that might be a word for you too. I've got to do the work that God called me to do in the window that God gave me to do it. And that will help you put off procrastination. And that'll help you sometimes stop thinking that you've always got more time than you really do. But when Jesus said, I must work the works of him who sent me while it's day, I think he was also reminding his disciples. It doesn't take me long. And I want to remind somebody today, and maybe this will be the whole reason you came for the message that it doesn't take God long. It doesn't. The one who created the world in six days and said, well, we could chill on the seventh because I'm done. It doesn't take God long to work. It doesn't take God long to work.
- **The one who can make the walls fall, a project that would have taken a demolition crew, perhaps weeks of permitting alone, and he can do it with the blow of a trumpet. It doesn't take God long. God chooses when he wants to move. But when he moves, it doesn't take him long. So don't be discouraged if you think it's taking too long, because God can do something in a moment that will make up for a month of what you thought was wasted time. It doesn't take God long. Reach around and tell three people it doesn't take him long. It doesn't take him long. That's what I was telling Holly. Go ahead and finish doing by the time you get done curling your eyelashes. I will be in the jeep waiting for you impatiently because it doesn't take me as long as it takes you. And so God wants you to know, I know you feel behind. I know it feels like forever. Who am I preaching to? But this is the word of the Lord. When he gets ready to do what he's going to do, it will not take him long to do it. God can turn things around so quick. God can turn things around so completely. God can do a reversal so suddenly that the last will be first and the first will be last. God can move you right to the front of the cafeteria line.**
- God can put you right in the door that many people shut on you and God kicks it open. And when God kicks it open, back up everybody else. It doesn't take God long. Now Jesus said, I've got to do the work of them who sent me while it's day. And for those of you who think that I'm just up here trying to give people encouragement for, you know, sudden breakthroughs and aha moments and, you know, complete reversals overnight. I am not that kind of preacher. If you've experienced my ministry for any length of time, I am a process oriented preacher. And so one time early in my ministry, I was experiencing this differential. between patience and passing. I sat down to explain to our team how we were going to go to two services because we were full in our first service and the whole team started arguing about whether or not we should go to two services, not two campuses, two services, and some thought it would be too taxing and some thought it would be too consuming.
- And some thought it would be too much. As a matter of fact, I even had a meeting with another person to ask about, should we go to two services? And the person said back to me, well, maybe you should wait on God. And then he said something real profound. Write this down. The only thing harder than waiting on God is wishing that you had. Amen. And that whole bird word. I mean, that is so true. That sometimes when we are waiting for God to do something, it feels so hard that the temptation to step outside of God's will and God's way to get it done. The temptation to get us a Hagar since Sarah can't have a baby, the temptation for us to do the sacrifice since the priest start coming, the temptation for us to reach for a bottle because we're sick and tired of waiting for breakthrough. The temptation to step outside of who you are to get what you want and you need so badly.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- It can be so great. But the only thing harder than waiting on God is wishing that you had. And waking up to decisions that you made because you didn't wait. So then the next day, I had another meeting with another mentor. And I said, hey, I've decided not to go to two services. I don't think I should right now. I think I should wait on the Lord. He said, wait on the Lord. The room is full. I was there. I couldn't get a seat. He said it was terrible. It was a terrible experience. I mean, I know it was good for you as a preacher. It's a full room. But for somebody trying to get a seat, it was a problem. And then you got up there and told us to invite our friends next week.
- Invite them to come to what? Sit and wear. Put them where? Where are you going to put them? I said, but I don't want to get ahead of God. And he said. Well, here's how God works. Here's how God works. If you get ahead of God in an effort to obey him, he can close the door and slow you down. If you get behind God because you won't obey him, he'll choose somebody else to use. So we went to two services. Because I realized something. About God, I realized something about waiting. I realized something about myself. I realized something about Jesus and it is that sometimes we think we're waiting. When we are really disobeyed.
- Oh, I'm gonna say it again. That's my whole message. Are you calling it waiting when it's really disobeyed? I mean, notice the disciples here. They see a man who's blind from birth, and their first instinct is to ask Jesus a theological question. You know, whose fault was it? Was it his fault, or was it his parents' fault that he was born blind? Now, this man has been born his whole life. We find out later in John chapter 9 that he is of legal age, so he is at least a grown man. And he may be an older grown man. We do not know his exact age, but we know that he has been in this condition before. His whole life. And one encounter with Jesus, it doesn't take God long, opens up his eyes to see a world that he has previously only experienced through other senses.
- However, had it been up to Jesus' disciples what happened to this dude, all that would have happened that day was a good debate. Because the disciples saw a debate, but Jesus saw a display. They said, let's talk about this man's condition. Let's talk about whose fault it was. Let's talk about what landed him in this place. Let's check his internet search history and see if he's looking at the right websites. Let's check his doctrine and see if he believes in substitutionary atonement. Let's look and see if he has memorized an adequate number of scriptures to get him healed and stuff. And Jesus circumventing all of that, and Jesus walking by all of that, and Jesus ignoring all of that, reaches down in the dirt, something that they are walking on top of, and puts it on the eyes of somebody that they are walking past. They had no intention of stopping for the man.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- They just wanted to talk about it. They had no power to heal the man. They just wanted to debate about it. They had no power to do anything about it. Watch out for people who are always debating and never displaying. Watch out for people who are always trying to qualify who should and should not be called by God. Especially if they are unwilling to go through that same qualification process themselves. So Jesus says, you see him as a debate. I see him as a display. You see him as someone who is crippled by blindness. I see him as a canvas for glory. You see him as somebody to walk past. I see him as somebody to work through. You see him as a blind man. I see him as a vessel. You see his lack of vision. I see his value. Because the only one not blind in this passage is Jesus. The man is blind. The disciples are blind. The Pharisees are blind. And the truth about it is, I'm blind too. That's why I need him to lead me and guide me and show me what's important. So I don't walk past stuff he's trying to do. It doesn't take God long when he gets ready to move. In all the ways I thought about the breakdown process. this scripture, I want to use the most unusual one. And I pray that you will give me this privilege today. I want us to reimagine what happens in John chapter 9. If the man who Jesus wants to heal had done what most of us do when Jesus is trying to bring about a change in our lives. Now, I want you to get that thing in your life that you are waiting on God to help.
- Waiting on God about us. And if you can't think of it right now because it's too painful, that's okay. Stay right there at the surface for a moment. I'm coming for you. Because I want that thing to surface while I preach today. I am waiting for the Lord. And skipping past the obvious things that we wait on God about, sometimes we are waiting for God just for What are you going to do with all those coats you bought when winter is over? You can't change the weather. You just got to change what you wear. Isn't that a word?
- Complaining about the environment of the world? You better bundle up. The world is always going to be broken. You got to go in with your armor of God on. Write that down so I'll remember to preach it later, Georgia. You can't change the weather, change your wardrobe. Instead of waiting on something to change, sometimes we have to embrace it. But notice what Jesus did when he healed this man. He said, I've only got a short window to do it, and I've got to work the works of him who sent me. The ultimate work of Jesus Christ was the cross. The ultimate work, singular work, of Jesus Christ was to pay for your sins.
- That's what he came to do above healing blind eyes, above opening deaf ears, above even alleviating the physical suffering of people, he came to make us right with God, he came to make a way for us to access God, he came to tear the veil so that heaven and earth were no longer separated by your sin, but joined together by his body and his blood shed on the cross. He came to do that work, but there are many works, one work, salvation, many works of sanctification that Jesus will do along the way I love that as he's going along the way he sees a blind man the blind man doesn't see him the blind man is not praying for a miracle he's been this way his whole life chances are he has never even thought about the fact that he might be able to see because he's never heard of it done and so as this man is sitting passive reaches down on the ground and he begins to grab some dirt.
- Put up first five, please. While I'm in the world, I'm the light of the world. And then verse six, he spits. He sticks. The Bible says the man couldn't see it. Doesn't say he couldn't hear. So I'm wondering what are you? doing? Who are you? And why are you spitting so close to me? And when he spits, now watch this. He made some mud with the spit. And you're like, is Jesus, is sanctified spit? It's still spit. It's still spit. He spits on the ground.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- Now, I'm going to preach every part of this in just a moment. Go with me. He spit on the ground, made some mud with the spit and put it on the man's eyes. Now go to verse seven. Go. He told him wash in the pool of Siloam. This word means sin. So he sent him to a pool. That means sin. Jesus was sent from heaven. spit in the mud, and he sent a man to a pool that represents that he was sent from heaven to get down in the mud, to send a man to a pool to show him that he was sent from above, to reach down in the dirt, to send a man to a pool. And he told him, wash in the pool, so long. So the man...
- Here's where I'm going to take a little liberty. **The man waited. The man waited. Now, this is the part where many of us have fallen in love with the concept of waiting on God. I want to underscore again that when God has called you to wait, the only thing worse than waiting on God is wishing that you hadn't. The only thing more difficult than waiting on God to bring a desire to pass is doing it in your own strength, doing it in your own knowledge, doing it in your own sight, doing it in your own, and then wishing, oh, if I had just listened to that check in my spirit, I would not still be paying this off. If I had just listened and not tried to impress people, I wouldn't have this mountain of debt. If I had just waited until I got my house in order, if I wouldn't have gotten ahead of myself, The only thing worse than waiting on God is wishing that you had. But when God has given you a word, waiting will not change your situation. Only washing will.**
- Because if this man had received the sanctified spit of the Savior of the world on his eyes. Now imagine it. He's standing, he's blind, he's standing. He's listening. He's he's willing. And Jesus spits in the ground and some mud on his eyes. And so he decides, you know what? I know he told me to go to the pool, but I'm gonna sit here for a minute because it will be easier for me to get to the pool if I can see my way there. So I'm going to wait for what he did to set in. And then I'll set out for where he told me to go. And I got a picture of a lot of us who have claimed we are waiting for God. And we even write songs about it in the church. We even have a song about waiting on God. And I love it. The song is called, I'm going to wait on you. Do you know that song? Do you know the song, I'm going to wait on you? Yeah. You can't sing that all the time. You can't sing, I'm going to wait on you at a green light. They are going to honk at you, and they should. Listen to me. I'm going to... What if the blind man... Just imagine with me. Just imagine with me. What if the blind man would have said... Okay, this is great, man.
- Whoever this guy is, I've heard things about him. I've heard that he has unique ways of working. I've heard that ripping off roots to come and see him. I've heard that he has a work that's not like the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Maybe he can do it. I've heard that he does great miracles. So I'm going to wait on you. How long would you wait? I'm going to wait on you. Did you hear me, Lord? I'm gonna wait on you. I wonder if the Lord ever sings back to us. I'm gonna wait on you. Imagine this, Jesus said, go to the pool and watch. And the man's like, yeah, I'm gonna do that. Right after I get this mud off my eyes. Right after this mud disappears. I'm not going through these streets. muddy like this. It's embarrassing. What, I'm supposed to go through the streets?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- He, you gotta realize, the pool he sent him to was at the southernmost part of the city, so it wasn't a short distance. And the moment Jesus touched his eyes, the healing began, but it did not unfold until he got to the place of obedience. So imagine it with me. I know it's corny, but he goes, I'm gonna wait on you. And Jesus goes, I told you what to do. This is the remix. How many will download this if I put it online? I told you to do it. You better get moving. Huh, huh? That's the remix. For all of us who are claiming gave you a word you just didn't like what he told you to do you didn't want to forgive so you're waiting for God to heal a heart that you have so clogged up with bitterness because you don't want to wash you want to wait You don't want to wash off the residue of what they did to you. You would rather rehearse it and nurse it and curse it and rehearse it and nurse it and curse it. But waiting will not fix what only washing can remove. Where are my amens? Are we going into a decade of y'all looking at me like Episcopalians? I mean, God bless every denomination, but I thought this was Elevation Church.
- And I found out that when God says move, when God says watch, when God says go, when God says step, when God says change, when God says let it go, when God says take it up, when God says throw your rock. imagine David waiting on God in the face of Goliath thought well if the Lord wants to take him down the Lord will take him down The Lord already showed you he wanted to take him down. That's why the lion went down and the bear went down. Because God was incrementally revealing to you the capacity of his power in a way that you would not doubt him when you face this challenge. You've already seen enough. Or Moses. I thought about Moses standing at the Red Sea saying, stand still and you will see. The salvation of the Lord. No, stand still and you will be slaughtered by the Egyptian armies. Because they're coming. I'm going to wait on you. And the Lord wants you to know today. That you cannot replace obeying with waiting. Good stuff. Good stuff.
- That's a walk-off statement right there. That is a walk-off statement right there. Because the truth is, I already preached enough words from this pulpit that went somewhere in a notebook or a phone. And God told you to do it. But you tried to microwave that miracle. And you tried to think that hearing would change you. But hearing the word of God does not change you. The value is in the application. It's like mud on your eyes. God has to get it on you. And then you got to get it off you. Whatever it is in this season of your life. Who am I preaching to? Guilty as charged, Your Honor. I have been waiting for God to show up and not going to the place that I know he sent me because I know God didn't send you into that addictive behavior. I know God didn't send you into that messed up relationship for the fourth time. You're going back to him for the fourth time because you don't want to be lonely and you're waiting on him to change. We're going to talk about this today. Because I am not having you leave this church and be the subject of a debate when God wants to display his glory in your life.
- So I present for your professional and personal consideration in those areas of your life. Three times we're waiting won't work. I've seen it in my own life. I've seen it in my own hypocrisy. I've seen the times where the devil knew I wouldn't disobey God if I labeled it as disobeying. So I almost see Satan having a strategy meeting. Let's tell them they're not disobeying, they're waiting. Yeah, tell them they're waiting, that sounds spiritual.
- Tell them they're waiting. And meanwhile, keep them from calling their friends and admitting that they're struggling, the friends that could actually help them and give them some companionship. No, tell them they're waiting on the Lord. I've jotted down three things to give you that you can pray about and see if you might be waiting instead of washing. You ever waited instead of washing? Prayer doesn't take away bad breath. Colgate does. Praying that away. So I want to take from this miracle briefly and succinctly. Now listen, I told you it doesn't take God long. I didn't say it doesn't take me long. It takes me a little while to preach how I want to preach.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- Y'all here for it? I want to talk about what Jesus used. And then I want to talk about where he sent the man. And then I want to talk about when he did it. And I want to talk about three things that you might be waiting on and it won't work. And then you wonder what is Jesus real? Because he did this thing, but it didn't work. Well, you waited instead of watching. And here's three things we went on. I give them all the upside. We wait on perfect. We wait on people and we wait on pain free. Put all of those in the comments. You're watching online. Are you waiting? When God said, watch, are you waiting on perfect? Are you waiting on people? Are you waiting on pain free? Are you waiting on perfect? Because a lot of times I do, the Bible says in Ecclesiastes, he who regarded the wind will never. So it means if you wait for conditions to be right, you'll never get it done.
- **If you wait for the perfect time to do it, you'll never do it. If you wait until you feel ready to step into it, you'll never step into it. Isn't that the truth? And the fact that Jesus made a miracle out of the mud reminds me that I made of what the miracle came from this very act mirrors Genesis 2:7-8, when God made you from the dirt and here's what I can't understand, we wait for perfect, not only in our lives, not only in ourselves, but in others. We wait for perfect. Now, let me ask you a question. When God started to make you, he started with dirt. Now you're expecting God to send you something that starts with perfect.**
- When you started with dirt, I had a unique experience the other day at a restaurant. I was trying to listen to what Holly was telling me, but I was very distracted by the conversation at the table behind us because they said our name, they said elevation. And I couldn't tell if it was being said positively or negatively, so I just, I said, "Lean back in the booth a little bit. And all I heard was the lady said, "'Are you still going to Elevation?' The other lady said, "'Yeah.'" And then the friend started telling her, "'Well, you may want to check out some other churches.'" Well, now I thought, She may, right? This is not the only church. So that may be a good idea. But what got me, the more that I, yeah, I listened to the whole thing. The parts I could pick up. The mature Christian who was talking to the other lady who had been going to Elevation, she starts going down this list of how you can find the perfect church. Now, if that's what the lady was looking for, she should never come back to this one again. But when she went through all of the things, I heard her say, you know, you might wanna go to one church, go there a couple months. Go to another church, go there a couple months. Go to another church, go there a couple of months.
- And I realized, you're confused because you think you should pick a church like you pick off this menu when you want salmon or steak. And you want to find out, is it medium well? Is it well done? Is it seasoned just like I like? I saw one the other day. This was crazy. This wasn't the lady behind me. But I saw one the other day that I screenshotted to tell you. A lady was on a forum talking about wanting to find a church, search for a new church. And don't laugh at me. They can respond later. If y'all laugh at me making this font bigger, I will prophesy about your secret sins. Yeah, she said, this is what's important to us. Bible-based, Jesus the Savior. Okay, great. Robust kids program. Awesome. Small to medium size. Maybe around 100 members. You know, what if the Lord wants you to be a part of a big church? What are you going to do when you get to heaven? And it's kind of big, by the way. You want just a little church. You're going to leave? You're going to check out the other place? You want to stop around now? You want to see what's behind door number two? When you walk in and it's every tribe and tongue and nation and it's white people and black people and short people and tall people and skinny people and Hispanic people and it's all kind of people raising the level. God. She's not done yet. We need members in the same walk of life as us. Why? You need some people older than you that aren't as dumb as you and all the people that you've been running with. We're looking for a community. We want other 30-somethings.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- That's fine. I get it, but... Then the next thing is progressive, diverse, and inclusive. So I want everybody to be just like me, diversely. You see what I'm saying? I want everybody 30 and different than me. So that they're just like me, but different. And then she wanted also decent worship. Yeah, yeah. She'll give you a little grace on the worship, you know. Now you say, this is me reading this list. I'm not saying her name. I don't know this person. I just thought, how could it make it on your list in the same category as worship and Jesus as Lord as gluten-free community? Hmm. That ought to make a preacher want to retire. Hmm. And I want the people to be holy, but real. Not judgmental, but spiritual. I want them to be advanced in their discipleship, but still very tender to my developing, blossoming spirituality. And I kind of wanted to turn around in the restaurant and ask the lady, the other lady that I was talking about. It's cool if you want to search for a church, but can we put you through the same test you want to put us through when you come in? Can we try you for three months? Try another one for three months? And try another one for... Oh, this is my third decade. I'm going to say it like I want to say it now.
- I'm not a fly-by-night burning no more. I'm old and gray. I've never seen the righteous forsaken. And I've never seen a perfect church. And if you ever find the perfect church, don't join it, because you're ruining it. And bring your own gluten-free communion. You can do that for yourself. Are you serious? Whole Foods! Are you waiting on perfect when the Savior specializes in mud? Jesus healed the man with mud, not magic. But we want magic. Abracadabra. Glory, hallelujah. Rub-a-dub-dub. I'm gonna wait on you. Not without dirty work, you're not. That's why I drive a Jeep. Because the Jeep looks good with dirt on it. That's why I love Jesus. Because Jesus looks good with dirt on him. And I want you to know he'll touch your life today.
- I want you to know he'll walk right up to you today. Oh, you little dirty self. You better come into the presence of God. You better listen to this man from Galilee who turns water into wine and dirt into diamonds. Hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Stop waiting for perfect and praise Him for progress. Stop waiting for perfect and praise Him for proximity. Just to be in His presence is a blessing. You know how many times I've been so fixated on one area of my life that wasn't working? That I would not even worship God for the 99 that were? You are waiting on God. No, you're not. You're focused so tightly on what you don't have that you're blind. So what you do. When will it be enough for you to praise God? When will it be? I mean, seriously, when will it be enough? Does it have to be perfect? How can you wait for perfect when you have a God who started with dirt? I'm saying that about your spouse too. Man, you really are going to fuss about that in your marriage?
- You're a little picky perfectionist self. And somebody else would give anything to have what you're about to throw away. Because it's not perfect. You aren't perfect. I'm going to interview everybody in your family to prove this point if I have to. It's an amazing thing when you stop searching for perfect and start accepting presence. There are no perfect people. And one reason that Jesus opened this man's eyes and sent him to the pool is because he had to get him away from all the people who knew him before. Think about it. If he opens his eyes and all he sees is the people around him, they don't even recognize him and they definitely don't respect him.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- I don't know where it is. I think it's around first 33 or something, but when they finally catch up with the man and see what he does, the religious officials are mad at Jesus. Watch this because he healed the man on the wrong day. Because the communion wasn't gluten free. They didn't want to take it. God bless you, man. But this is, this is too picky. That man has never seen before. And all you can see is what day Jesus did it on. God moves when he wants to. And it doesn't take them long. And if he made a rule, he can transcend the rule for a person that he loves. But you've got to be careful waiting on people. The first thing that you're waiting on is perfect.
- But the second thing you're sometimes waiting on is people. And notice the exchange in the text is kind of funny, but you can miss the richness if you laugh at it because they can't figure out, could it be him? you know when you first start living for God people are like is this for real oh yeah they're not going to change this is just they're just thinking on a kick about every about every time in the first of the year they'll be done with this by March they start doubting what God has done and no one can blame them because no one has ever heard of the healing of one blind from birth there are others heal of blindness in the scripture but not from birth so nobody expects it to happen and so Jesus sends him One reason that I believe he put mud on his eyes was to keep the man from being comfortable where he was. If Jesus had sent him to the pool with no mud on his eyes, he may not have gone because he had nothing to wash off. Sometimes God uses messy situations to move you and send you where you're supposed to be. Amen. And that man went to the pool and I almost could see it in my mind.
- I almost could see the movie of the man going all the way to the pool and he's moving, but it's muddy moves. And the more I saw the man, the more I saw you, you're making moves right now, but they're muddy moves. They're muddy moves. These are not calculated times in your life. These are not sure steps that you're taking. These are not clear paths that you're trotting. These are not obvious decisions that you're making, and it is difficult for you to know if you're doing the right thing, but if you are moving in the direction of what God has told you to do, if you get ahead of him, he can close the door in mud on your eyes, waiting to see the change, waiting to move until you can see, waiting to know the outcome. By the way, Jesus didn't even tell the man you're going to get healed. Find it in the text. He didn't even promise him an outcome. He just gave him an instruction.
- But something about the way his voice spoke resonated with the man. I've got to move. It's money, but I gotta move. I gotta start this Bible study. I gotta move. I can't wait for an invitation. I gotta move. I don't know if this is the right counselor, but it's a counselor. I gotta move. I don't know if it's the right eGroup, but it's a eGroup. I gotta move. I don't know if it's gonna work in this program, but it's a step. I'm making money moves in this season. of my life i'm obeying the best i know how and if i get it wrong he'll speak again and if i get off track he knew that too but i'm making money moves these are not pretty steps these are not dance moves these are not fancy moves these are not step team competition moves these are money moves And I saw the man who got to the pool and he would have known when he was there because he would have heard the sound of the water. And Jesus has healed this man. And he said, I gotta do it while it's day because night is coming when no one can work.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- And so this man bending down to the water because he had no other option but to obey begins to wash the mud from his eyes. And you're asking why Jesus But that's not what I'm asking. I did that because Jesus wanted to touch that man and let him know, I am not ashamed to be identified with you. What I wanted to know is, why did he send him all the way to the pool? Why not just wash it off on the spot? But I realized something about pools of water in the daytime as the light shimmers off of the pool is that, This man has never seen before. And so Jesus wanted to give him a pool, not only to remove the mud, but to reflect the face. And the first thing that the man saw, after a whole life of being stepped on, when he got the mud, Off of his eyes, Jesus said, the first person I want you to see is yourself. So he didn't send him to people. He sent him to a pool so that the dirt could be removed, so that his true self could be revealed. You haven't even seen yourself yet. And before you can see Jesus, you've got to see yourself. Long enough other people defining you by what you did.
- Long enough. Long enough beating the hell out of yourself because what you did six years ago. Long enough. Long enough of you taking earthly measurements to try to qualify heavenly dimensions. Long enough. Long enough. You hear me? Long enough. Long enough. Guilt will not wash it away. And God is washing some things away. And I came with an instruction. You got to wash it off you now. You got to wash it off you now. I know it's been a long time. I know you've never seen yourself clearly. But the man called Jesus told me to wash. And I went. And I washed. And I came home seeing. I went. And I washed. And I saw myself for the first time. I saw myself for the first time. I saw what I could be for the first time. And God brought you here today to give you a mirror to wash away the mud so you could see yourself. Not to go to other people. Who do you think I have? Who do you think I can be? If you wait in this season for other people to confirm your obedience, you will stay blind.
- You will stay broken. You will stay isolated. Jesus said, I'm sending you to a spot so you can see yourself. And you cannot wait. You must wash. Which means you can't wait till it's pain free. I hear a lot of people talk about their testimonies. How God delivered them out of depression. And I praise the Lord that he does that. I hear a lot of people share their testimonies, how the Lord delivered them from anxiety. And I praise the Lord that he does that. And I pray that if you struggle from depression or anxiety or any other blindness in your life, any other thing that keeps you from being where you should be and who you should be and seeing and thinking and feeling your way clearly, I pray for that deliverance in your life. But I wanted to remind you not to wait for perfected. not to wait for a person. You've got it so narrow that you think unless this specific person thinks you're valuable, you're not. Unless this specific person loves you, you are not lovable. Unless the pain goes away, you can't move forward. But remember, the man did not see until he washed and he couldn't wash till he went, which means I've got to make money. Even Jesus, even Jesus did not perform miracles in a pain-free environment just before Jesus healed the man, he had been proclaiming to the Jewish authorities. I am the light of the world. John eight verse 12. And they were so out. him to the edge of the city and John chapter eight verse 50.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- A says when he proclaimed before Abraham was, I am they, the people picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself slipping away from the temple guards. That was the context of Jesus situation. When John chapter nine verse one happened. And as he went along, he saw a man blind. And he did not let the fact that he almost got stoned keep him from seeing a man who needed to be healed. And I came to say, don't let it stop you. Do not let it stop you. Don't let the fear stop you. Don't let the feelings stop you. Don't let the shaking stop you. Don't let the sleep apnea stop you. Don't let the bankruptcy stop you. Don't let the credit problem stop you. Don't let the lawsuit stop you. Don't let it stop you. Because He who begets a good work in you will be faithful to performance. But you gotta go. And so while you've been waiting for God to take the pain away, how many have been praying in this season of your life, God, take it away, take it away, take it away. He may take it away, but sometimes he doesn't.
- Paul had a thorn in his flesh. And Paul said three times, 2 Corinthians 12. I prayed to the Lord to take it away from me. And so when people used to say that they were delivered from anxiety, delivered from depression, delivered from poverty, delivered from delivered from. I thought that always meant that the Lord would take it away. I found out that sometimes he does and sometimes he makes a way. So sometimes he takes away. Sometimes he makes a way. And he says to you what he said to Paul in verse nine, my grace, my grace. That's what you're going to get. My grace. And it's going to be enough.
- **Closing Prayer #1: And it's going to be sufficient. And it's going to be enough for tomorrow. And it's going to be enough for Tuesday. And it's going to be enough for next year. And it's going to be enough for the battle. And it's going to be enough for the storm. And it's going to be enough. Somebody say it's going to be enough. My grace is sufficient. So I'm not going to take away. I'm going to make a way and you'll have to wait for the pain to go away. But I'm looking for 1600 people who will praise him right up in the middle of it. Who will praise him. With mud on my eyes. With questions in my heart. With pain in my soul. I praise him. Father I thank you in Jesus name. For the mud on my eyes. I thank you for the healing that is happening. From this pulpit today. All the way from this room to a hospital room. All the way from a hospital room to an apartment. To a college dorm room. To a prison cell. Right here to the third row. To our Riverwalk campus. To our Uptown campus. Your word is flowing. It doesn't take you long. When you speak, you heal. When you instruct, you interrupt. When you do a thing, you do it swiftly. And it's time. Thank you for the pool that you've given us to wash in today. The water of your word. How I thank you for the times in my life that you opened my eyes. How I thank you for the eyes that you're opening right now. God, today, I pray for the person whose eyes are closed spiritually and they need to see Jesus. They don't need to see me. They need to see Jesus. You can see him today.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- The Bible says that we walk by faith, not by sight. You can see him today, but in order to see him, you must surrender who you thought you were, who you thought he was right now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed. the right now in this moment, if you're saying, man, I don't know what's next in my life. I'm not perfect. I'm muddy. I'm dirty. That's great. God loves to start with dirt. He loves to do miracles with mud. The Lord brought you here. You know, this is your opportunity to receive him. I saw you got to do. All you got to do is wash. He already provided the blood. All you got to do is watch right now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed. If today is your day and you know, you're coming back to God or coming to him for the first time through Jesus, I want you to repeat this prayer after me. We're going to pray it out loud for the benefit of those who are coming to God or coming back to God as a church family. Repeat after me. Heavenly father, I am a sinner in need of a savior. And I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and the savior of the world. And today I made Jesus the Lord of my life. I believe he died. Then I would be forgiven and rose again to give me life. I receive this new life. This is my new beginning. I am. A child of God. On the count of three, shoot your hand up in the air if you prayed that. One, two, three. I want to celebrate with you personally. God bless you, sir. God bless you, man. That's beautiful, baby. Come on, it's your birthday today. It's a new day today. Let's celebrate all these you just made. The greatest decision.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

- **I've got to do the work that God called me to do in the window that God gave me to do it. The only thing harder than waiting on God is wishing that you had.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

- Stop waiting for perfect and praise Him for progress. Stop waiting for perfect and praise Him for proximity. Stop searching for perfect and start accepting presence.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

Paul's 2nd letter to Corinthians 12:7-8 (NIV): Additional thoughts by Pastor Andy Stanley "Faith, Hope, and Luck" 2008:

- "Your circumstantial faith will eventually fail you. The sorrows and pleasures life will eventually cause your faith to become inconvenient.
- Definition of Faith: Living your life with the expectation and confidence that God will deliver on what he promised.
- Faith is being sure things that God promised. Faith is having certainty for those things that are unseen. Faith is
- being sure of those things that you had previously only hoped for. This is the grid to view all other biblical teachings. So, what exactly has God promised?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon Notes - When Waiting Isn't Working (Muddy Moves) by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/16/2026

Paul's 2nd letter to Corinthians 12:7-8 (NIV): Additional thoughts by Pastor Andy Stanley "Faith, Hope, and Luck" 2008:

- So, what exactly has God promised?
 - Healing for some.
 - Not to reverse the consequences of a bad decision
 - Not to answer all of our prayers
 - Not to be rich.
 - Empathize with us (not sympathize with us). Your savior says I know how that feels. Jesus has been there.
 - Our savior was tempted in every way we are (he dreaded the events of a following day before his crucifixion, experienced the rejection of his closest friends, experienced rejection of a family member, and experienced crushing temptation).
 - Provides the clarity of an example of a sinless and perfect life.
 - Mercy and grace in our time of need. Approach God with both grace and confidence (without formality) so that you may receive mercy and grace in your time of need. Mercy = God is going to lean in your direction because "I know."
 - Sometimes mercy is tangible. Grace is the strength and energy to endure.
 - God has not promised to deliver us from our circumstances, he has promised to deliver us through our circumstances.

- Closing Prayer #1: And it's going to be sufficient. And it's going to be enough for tomorrow. And it's going to be enough for next year. And it's going to be enough for the battle. And it's going to be enough for the storm. And it's going to be enough. My grace is sufficient. So I'm not going to take away. I'm going to make a way and you'll have to wait for the pain to go away. Who will praise him? With mud on my eyes. With questions in my heart. With pain in my soul. I praise him. Father I thank you in Jesus name. For the mud on my eyes. I thank you for the healing that is happening. From this pulpit today. To a college dorm room. To a prison cell. Your word is flowing. It doesn't take you long. When you speak, You heal. When You instruct, You interrupt. When you do a thing, You do it swiftly. And it's time. Thank you for the pool that you've given us to wash in today. The water of your word. How I thank you for the times in my life that you opened my eyes. God, today, I pray for the person whose eyes are closed spiritually and they need to see Jesus. They don't need to see me. They need to see Jesus.

Back up slides

In August 2017, Pastor Furtick led a study of David called “Bars and Battles.” I think Pastor Furtick’s sermon this weekend “Not as Long as My Song” builds of this prior series. On August 13, 2017, Pastor Furtick said this while unpacking Psalm 142 and 1 Sam 22 – where Saul is trying to kill David: “We have to learn to trust God and keep our hand on the harp. This means that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (fleshy or bodily), they are mighty through God for the pulling down of strong-holds – so it might not look like much – but our worship is our weapon. If you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and trust him – no matter what is coming at your head, no matter what is coming at your life – if you trust him and duck – and trust him and pray – the hand of God is on your life. Therefore, if you can win the battle here (your heart) – if you can get down low enough to say God I need you – and realize that the real battle is not with Saul – it is with self. Before David become a king and before God calls us to do what we are supposed to do, we need to learn to do the hardest thing to do – to depend. The easiest thing for David to do was to fight – this came naturally to him – the hardest thing for David to do was to be humble and depend – where David has to depend on the hand of God for the spear to miss him.” Kev note: Dang that is good!



Oswald Chambers

July 18 – Daily Devotional:

“There is nothing miraculous about the things that we can explain. We command what we are able to explain, consequently it is natural to seek to explain. It is not natural to obey; nor is necessarily sinful to disobey. If one man says to another – You must and you shall, he brakes the human spirit and unfits it for God. Many a soul begins to come to God when he flings off being religious, because, there is only one master of the human heart, and that is not religion but Jesus Christ. But woe be to me if when I see Him I say – I will not. He will never insist that I do, but I have begun to sign the death warrant of the Son of God in my soul. When I stand face to face with Jesus Chris and say – I will not, **He will never insist, but I am backing away form the re-creating power of His redemption.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

What if we found the reason for life? Why we were created? Why we were designed? And conformed to that and then honored that?

If there is a design, there is a designer. And if there is a designer, the logos has come. Not some abstract philosophical principle. **It is a person.**

The designer has punched a hole into the world and he has descended. And you were built not to just honor some philosophical principle. But you were built to know and love this divine person. When you know him and when you serve him and you find out what he built you for, when you comply with it and submit yourself to him, you find out who you are. And you are now able to reach your potential.

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

“Life and Leadership at the Highest” A quote from an unknown author and requoted by Pastor Tim Keller in his sermon “This is Jesus” part 4 “Two Grieving Sisters Encounter Jesus” at Oxford University in 2016: “The accounts of Him in the New Testament speak for themselves – He combines qualities that no one has ever seen – despite his incredible claims, we never see him pompous, offended, or standing on his own dignity. Despite being absolutely approachable to the weakest and most broken people, he is completely fearless before the powerful and the corrupt. Despite being weary and lonely, we find him remarkably human - filled with joy, fear, love, and anger. Yet, we never see him Moody. We never see him being inconsistent. We never see Him strong when He should be tender and we never see Him tender when He should be strong. Most interesting of all – Of all his encounters with people - we are continuously surprised – shocking us - but never disappointing us – it is difficult for us to imagine words that Jesus ought to have said or deeds that he ought to have done. Nothing he has done ever falls short - in fact He is always surprising us - because He is incomparably better than what we could imagine for ourselves. Why? These are the surprises of perfection – He has tenderness without weakness – He has strength without harshness – humility without the slightest lack of confidence – unhesitating authority without the slightest sense of self-absorption – Holy and unbending convictions without the slightest lack of approachability – power without insensitivity – passion without prejudice – there is never a false step – there’s never a jarring no – this is life at the highest.”