

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 7TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

A BLIND MAN HEALED (JOHN 9:1-12)

SHOW COMPASSION, SHARE CHRIST

The disciples were convinced that the man's blindness was due to sin from either his parents or himself.

- Instead of being moved to compassion, the disciples inquired about causality. **We can never let our theology, the study of God, replace the necessity of doing the work of God.**

ONLY GOD KNOWS WHY

When Jesus claims, **"Neither this man nor his parents sinned,"** He does not mean that they were perfect and sinless but that **their personal sins were not the cause of his disability.**

- All ailments and disabilities are a result of the fall of humanity through Adam (Romans 5:12), but **God can use these things for good and bring glory to His name.**

ONLY GOD CAN TURN ALL THINGS FOR GOOD

John is not suggesting that the personal sins of the man or his parents were the cause, nor did God cause it only to be miraculously healed by Jesus.

- God, who works all things for good (Romans 8:28), would prove to humanity that Jesus was God and the Messiah. **"The Lord opens the eyes of the blind"** (Psalm 146:8). **"The eyes of the blind shall be opened"** (Isaiah 35:5).

"WE MUST DO THE WORKS OF HIM WHO SENT ME"

To work **"while it is day"** would have been a simple statement that was easily understood at this time. Labor was done as the daylight provided because **once it was dark, no one could work.**

- **We are to take advantage of an opportunity to serve when it is presented.**

JESUS SHIFTS THEIR FOCUS

We have not seen the healing of the blind in the O.T., nor do we see it through anyone other than Jesus in the Gospels.

- Jesus performed this miracle more than any other miracle, but we see His method for healing change. **This removed the focus from the manner of the healing and placed it on the message of the healing.**

A RESPONSE IN FAITH

Jesus **"made mud"** and spread it on his eyes, then told him to **"go wash."** Only after the man did as Jesus told him was he healed.

- Notice the man did not request the healing. It was Jesus who took the initiative, but He still required the man to respond in faith, and he went to **"wash in the pool of Siloam."**

THE HEALED MAN'S TESTIMONY (JOHN 9:13-23)

TRADITIONS ARE GOOD, IN PROPER PROPORTION

John points out that this miraculous healing took place on the Sabbath. By making clay, applying the clay, and healing the man, Jesus performed three "unlawful" works.

- Jesus did this intentionally to challenge their religious traditions that had been elevated to the place of the law, exposing that **their traditions had become their god.**

UNABLE TO SEE THE TRUTH IN FRONT OF THEM

The Pharisees did not believe these things were from God **because they did not line up with their traditions.**

- The evidence of the miraculous was right in front of them again, but they could not bring themselves to believe. Instead of praising Jesus for a miracle, they questioned the man's parents, hoping to prosecute Jesus.

A BOLD PROCLAMATION IN THE FACE OF THREATS

John points out that the Jews had agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus as Messiah would be excommunicated.

- Out of fear, the man's parents "passed the buck" when it came to who healed their son. However, **the man boldly proclaimed Jesus was a prophet, A man sent of God, doing the work of God through the power of God.**

AN INCOMPLETE VIEW

He cannot fault the man for his incomplete view of who Jesus really is. In his growing faith, **he indicated that his healer must be a prophet because he had no way of knowing that Jesus was more.**

- This chapter ends with an opportunity for the man to accept who Jesus truly is, but here he places the highest designation on Him he can.

REFUSING TO LISTEN (JOHN 9:24-34)

THE MAN IS BROUGHT BACK AGAIN

The Pharisees call the man in a second time and tell him to **"give glory to God."**

- This would have been a two-fold demand to further threaten the man with excommunication. On the one hand, it would have **removed any credit from Jesus for the healing,** but on the other, it was **the equivalent of swearing in at court.**

NEW CREATIONS

People can argue and debate about theology, but **the truth of someone's testimony cannot be refuted. The truth of once being one thing but now in Christ being something completely different.**

- The man was blind, and now he can see. **The blind receive sight, the addict finds freedom, and the lost are found.**

THE MAN'S PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN

The man was able to see for the first time in his life, and all he sees are angry faces. Not wanting to waste any more time with them, and with their redundant questioning, he asks the Pharisees if they are inquiring about Jesus because they want to become followers.

- He then exclaims that **their unbelief is more amazing than his healing.**

GOD HEARS THE CRIES OF HIS PEOPLE

The Pharisees make good on their threats of excommunication and throw the man out of the Synagogue for claiming that Jesus must be from God because His prayers were heard.

- The man shares simple truths: God doesn't listen to the prayers of unrepentant sinners (Isaiah 1:15; Psalm 66:18), but **"if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to Him."**

SPIRITUALLY BLIND (JOHN 9:35-41)

"HE FOUND HIM"

The man had not seen the face of his healer, but he knew his voice (John 10:27).

- Like a good shepherd, Jesus cares for His sheep, and He revealed Himself to this man who was thrown out and rejected by his own people. **Though we may be rejected by others, is it enough to be accepted by Jesus?**

THEOLOGY LEADS TO DOXOLOGY

Jesus asked the man if he believed in the Son of Man. In a proper response to Jesus telling him, **"He is the one speaking with you,"** the man believed and worshipped Him.

- **When we are presented with the truth of who Jesus is, there is one proper response: to believe, and true faith will give way to worship.**

NO CONTRADICTION IN JESUS' WORDS

When Jesus says, **"I came into this world for judgment"** (John 9:39), He is not contradicting Himself when He said He came to **"save the world"** (John 3:16-17).

- These two statements are two sides of the same coin. **The Lord came to earth to bring salvation, but the result of His coming is condemnation to those who will not believe.**

ARE WE TEACHABLE?

Those who admit their spiritual blindness will receive sight in Jesus, but those who self-righteously claim to have spiritual sight will remain blind and in their sin.

- The Pharisees rhetorically asked, **"Are we blind?"** because they thought they knew it all. **There is nothing to learn for those who falsely believe they "know all things."**

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

- Because we live in a fallen world, we are all spiritually blind from birth.
- Jesus takes the initiative to heal us from our condition of spiritual blindness.
- Jesus makes us something new entirely and calls us to tell others (Revelation 12:11).
- Jesus calls us to be obedient to what He commands.