

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 7TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

SIGN (JOHN 9:1-7)

WHO SINNED?

The disciples' questions reveal their misunderstanding of sin. They assumed his blindness was a result of individual sin.

- **Jesus has no sympathy for this type of legalism. Health and wealth are not the sign of "good standing." Disease and disability are not the sign of direct sin. Jesus saw a man, not a disability.**

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Again, we see Jesus doing the will of God the Father. This man would be healed because it was time for the Messiah to be revealed.

- **We see mud, saliva, and the pool of Siloam, but Jesus is the one who was "sent" to wash and give sight. He heard and obeyed, but he still hadn't seen Him.**

RESPONSE (JOHN 9:8-12)

NEIGHBORS

These are the people who had seen him begging in the streets for years, and they cannot believe their eyes and ask, "How?"

- **After sharing the process, they finally ask the right question, "Who?" Because he still hadn't seen "the man called Jesus," he couldn't send his friends when they asked, "Where?"**

INTERROGATION (JOHN 9:13-34)

THE SABBATH

They brought the man to the Pharisees because Jesus made mud (and healed on the Sabbath again).

- **When faced with the facts, people will still challenge any authentic experience with Christ. The beggar wasn't intimidated and declared that the one they sought to prosecute was a prophet.**

THE PARENTS

After losing ground with the beggar, they sought to discredit him with a background check. His parents confirmed the blindness but were afraid to confess the Messiah.

- **The leaders sought to eliminate Jesus and intimidate anyone that might follow Him. Our culture still embraces this tactic. We must choose how we will respond.**

GIVE GLORY TO GOD

They call him (the beggar) back in and put him under oath. The facts and testimony had not supported their opinion, so they wanted him to declare that Jesus was a sinner.

- **He only knew one thing: "I was blind, and now I can see!" They have heard his account repeatedly but continue to ask "what" and "how."**

AN AMAZING THING!

After questioning their motives, the leaders ridicule him, and he is amazed. It wasn't that he had been healed but that they wouldn't believe a man born blind was healed by Jesus.

- **They were stuck in their own understanding, rejecting this man, his testimony, and, ultimately, rejecting Jesus.**

SEEING (JOHN 9:35-41)

THROWN OUT AND FOUND

Rejected by the religious leaders and ejected from the local church, this man may have been alone, but Jesus found him...again.

- **Clearly, this man was willing to acknowledge Christ before men, and now Jesus would reveal Himself as the Savior.**

BLIND TO BLINDNESS

Some Pharisees were listening in and wondered if they were blind.

- **Jesus tells them if they would admit their blindness (being lost), they wouldn't be guilty of the sin of rejecting Him. But they could only see the law as the light and therefore remained blind in their sin.**

LEGALISM

- Legalism is when we seek God's favor through our righteous works.
- **When we think we can earn it, we start to believe we deserve certain "blessings" and will begin to judge those with "less."**
- **As we are created by God, each one of us has a purpose from God. As followers, it is for our good and His glory!**

REACTION

- Following Jesus will be the most exciting time of your life.
- **Not everyone will see it that way. Their truth may not align with THE TRUTH.**
- **As we walk in THE LIGHT, we should respond with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).**

FAITH

- Everyone has faith in something.
- **Faith in our works will keep the spotlight on us, blinded to our spiritual blindness.**
- **Faith in Christ exposes our weaknesses and opens our eyes to a relationship with Him. Do we realize what this means? Are we living like we once were blind, but now we see? Can anyone see us?**