



JOHN 9: JESUS GIVES SIGHT TO A MAN BORN BLIND

Lesson #28, by Gerald Cumby

Summary:

John 9 masterfully illustrates the transition from darkness to light, both physically and spiritually. Jesus, as the Light of the World, heals physical blindness and illuminates spiritual understanding. Despite facing skepticism and persecution, the healed man's faith in Jesus strengthens, embodying the transformative power of encountering Christ. The chapter compels us to never fear giving testimony of physical and spiritual miracles in our lives as we walk and talk with our family and friends. This should be an encouragement to all of us to "shout it from the mountain tops... 'JESUS SAVES AND IS INTERESTED IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES.' "

John 9:1-2, "Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

- The previous chapter ended with those who wanted to stone Jesus, considering Him guilty of blasphemy. John continues the account, noting now Jesus **passed by** a man **who was blind from birth**.
- The sense of the flow of the text is that Jesus was not shaken or disturbed by the almost deadly confrontation with the religious leaders that just happened at the end of chapter 8.
- Jesus was often reviled, but never ruffled. "One of the things worthy to be noticed in our Lord's character is his wonderful quiet of spirit, especially his marvelous calmness in the presence of those who misjudged, and insulted, and slandered him." (Spurgeon)
 - ✓ The perfect man who knew no sin...just had no fear of what other people were saying about Him or what might happen to Him.
 - ✓ He knew His goal and objective and pursued it. (He would die for mankind...not die by getting in an argument about who He was or where He came from).

Note: The disciples showed no interest in helping the man, but in discussing the cause for his condition. Jesus, however, wanted to do what was important...actually helping the man.

John 9:3-5, "Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. 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.""

- Jesus said that the man's blindness – essentially a birth defect – was not caused by some specific sin on the part of the **man** or **his parents**.

- Birth defects and other such tragedies are sometimes due to sinful behavior of the parents (like drug use and taking chances before or after conception). Yet far more often – and in the case Jesus spoke of here – it is due simply to sin and our fallen condition in general, not due to any specific sin.
- Speaking to this man's situation, Jesus told them that even his blindness was in the plan of God so that **the works of God should be revealed in him.**

Think of all the times the little blind boy asked his mother, "Why am I blind?" Perhaps she or others never felt a good answer came from anyone.

- Jesus explained, it is because God wants to work in and through even this. Jesus pointed the question away from why and on to the idea, what can God do in this?
In this case, Jesus healed him. However, God may reveal His works in other lives other ways...such as joy and endurance in the midst of the difficulty.
- Jesus was teaching us to "work while we have the time and the time is right to administer help when needed. We might miss an opportunity to witness if we "pass by" an obvious need by others.
- Jesus understood that opportunities for service and doing good don't last forever. Knowing that healing on the Sabbath would bring chastisement, He still showed the compassion our Lord has for those in need.

John 9:6-12, 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.

Jesus wanted to emphasize these truths.

- Just as God used the dust of the ground and clay to do a work of creation in Genesis, so Jesus did a work of creation with dust and clay for this man.
- Jesus found it important to change His methods of healing so one could never make a formula of the methods. The power was in God, not in a method.
- Mark recorded two other healings that Jesus performed with the use of His saliva (Mark 7:33 and 8:23).
- In this miracle, Jesus took all the initiative. Jesus came to the blind man; the blind man did not come to Him. Even so, He expected the blind man to

respond with faith-filled action. The healing would not happen unless the man responded with those faith-filled, obedient actions.

- *This is the first time in the Biblical record a person born blind was healed of their blindness. From Genesis to John, no prophet, priest, or apostle ever gave sight to eyes born blind.*
- *Since healing blind eyes is the work of the Lord, Yahweh, Jehovah, it shows that Jesus is God: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. (Psalms 146:8)*
- **“A Man called Jesus”:** At this point, the man knew very little about Jesus. He didn’t seem to know that Jesus was from Nazareth, or was the Messiah, or claimed to be God, or the light of the world. He didn’t even know where Jesus was. The man seemed to know nothing about Jesus except His name and that Jesus was the Man who healed him.

John 9:13-23, “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.”

- Jesus could have done it on any day He chose. He chose the Sabbath to challenge the petty traditions of the religious leaders.
- To the Pharisees, Jesus could not be from God because He did not line up with their traditions and prejudices.
- “The minority’s (opposite of the Pharisees position) ask the simple question, ‘How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?’ This sounds much like Nicodemus’s opening words to Jesus: “No one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him’ (John 3:2).”
- The disagreement between the Pharisees and the others caused them to get the opinion of the man born blind regarding Jesus.
- John 9:11, all the man knew about Jesus was His name. Here, the healed man proclaimed that Jesus was **a prophet**. He grew in his understanding and proclamation about Jesus.

- It was easier for the religious leaders to believe that the man was never really blind than to believe that Jesus healed the man. Aren't we guilty of the same? We try to explain miracles away...Even Christians do that!!
- The religious leaders asked the parents to verify that the man was truly born blind. The parents verified, **"this is our son, and that he was born blind."**
- The parents could identify their son and that he was born blind. They would not speak to the question of how he was healed because of the threat of excommunication (**the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue**).
- The parents were so frightened by the threat of excommunication that they did all they could to put the attention back upon their son and away from them.

John 9:24-25, "So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

- This command to the healed man may be an admonition to tell the truth, or it may be a command to deny any credit to Jesus in the healing.
- **"We know this Man is a sinner"**: They said this because they had already made up their minds that He was not the Messiah, was blasphemous (from God, God's Son). He could not be from God because He was going against their long-held traditions.
- The man born blind didn't know everything about Jesus, but he did know how Jesus had touched his life. At that moment, it was an irrefutable argument. They could not argue against what Jesus did in this man's life.

"They take their stand on their preconceived ideas, he on the simple facts that he knows" (Morris)

As an Assembly of God member and a believer in Jesus as our Messiah, Savior, Healer, Friend, etc., I still have some preconceived ideas about my faith. I don't want to ever base my faith on a denomination's policies or decisions handed down by the Board in Springfield. I certainly respect them and I pray for them. I pray for them to make godly decisions based on what the Bible states as the truth. I feel that the 16 Fundamental Truths are Biblical and worthy of our trust.

I have and always will hold these truths to be self-evident (simple, common-sense thinking). God's Word is not ever to be misaligned by emphasizing one great gift from God over another. However, the gift of salvation and the testimony of our salvation can never be placed as a subtitle or lowered in status of being the most important emphasis of our church actions. WE MUST KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING. THE PREACHING, THE TEACHING, THE EMPHASIS SHOULD ALWAYS BE EVANGELISM...SEEING PEOPLE SAVED. WITHOUT SALVATION FIRST, WATER BAPTISM, THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, OR OTHER GIFTS CANNOT TAKE PLACE IN THE LIFE OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PRAY FOR REVIVAL IN THESE LAST DAYS.
IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WITNESS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM OTHERS THAT THERE IS A HEAVEN AND THERE IS A HELL.

Used some information from John 9 Study, Enduring Word, ©2018 David Guzik –