

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 9

We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Gospel of John.

John tells us at the end of the gospel that the purpose of this gospel is for the readers (us) to be able to see Jesus for who He truly is and then believe Him and then trust Him.

As we read the details about the encounters that Jesus had with individuals, the significance of the signs that He performed and the announcements that He made – the clear evidence of who Jesus is – we should be able to conclude / we should be able to reason that “Man, how could anyone miss that – Jesus is God”

Yet for the past couple of weeks, one of the things we have seen in our studies – is that, no matter how clear the truth about Jesus has been presented, Jesus has been consistently met with rejection by the religious rulers.

Their rejection proves that they are blind to the truth.

In fact, in our study last week, Jesus declared to the religious rulers that He was the God of Creation, the Great I AM, the God of Abraham – yet rather than bow down in reverence, they bent down to pick up stones to kill Him.

They're rejecting the God that they claim to serve, proving themselves to be blind to the truth.

Which brings us to our text this morning as we start chapter 9.

Remember, John is very selective on what he includes in his gospel –

So he transitions from the conversation that Jesus had with the religious rulers in the court of the Temple – to this encounter with a blind man

What John is going to provide for us in our text is a paradox –

If you don't know what a paradox is – I have an example (show example)

John is going to provide the details of an encounter where a man who is physically blind from birth is able to spiritually see, all while, those who can physically see remain spiritually blind.

It is those individuals who watched Jesus perform miracle after miracle – who were hard hearted and blind to the clear truth of Jesus, yet a man who wasn't able to see any of these things, responds in belief and obedience to Jesus.

Let's pray...

So this morning we are going to look at probably one of the famous miracles that Jesus performed.

In many movies and televisions that we see about the life of Jesus – we tend to see this one miracle.

And the reason I believe we are drawn to this miracle is because of the way that Jesus did it.

Our first reaction – gross!!!

However, there is a much greater significance.

In the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah – we find multiple times when Isaiah said that the Messiah would open the eyes of the blind

Isaiah 29:18

Isaiah 35:5

Isaiah 42:7

[Psalm 146:8 NKJV] 8 The LORD opens [the eyes of] the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous.

While there are many miracles and healings recorded in the Old Testament, never do we read of the blind recovering sight.

God empowered Elijah and Elisha to resuscitate individuals – but they never gave anyone their sight back.

This seems to be a healing God reserved for The Messiah, to help serve as one of the signs of Who He was.

And that is exactly when Jesus did during His ministry.

He didn't only heal a handful of individuals of their blindness.

The gospel of Matthew lists several occasions where he healed people of their blindness

Matt. 9:27-31;

12:22-23;

15:30;

20:29-34;

21:14.

Again – these were signs that Jesus did to prove that He is the Messiah.

Let's look at our text -

[Jhn 9:1-12 NKJV] 1 Now as [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

I had you make a note of the phrase passed by –

Because the same Greek word that John used here in verse 1, he also used to describe what Jesus did when the religious rulers took up stones to throw at Him.

He passed them by as well.

So it could possibly be that this event takes place as Jesus is leaving the area of the temple.

As He is avoiding death – He notices someone in need.

John describes this man as a man who was born blind

Meaning that he wasn't an individual who at one time had 20/20 vision and his eye sight deteriorated over time.

He didn't lose his sight because of an injury or because one day he decided he was going to go outside and disobey his parents and stare at the sun.

From the moment he entered the world, he was unable to enjoy the gift of sight.

He had a birth defect.

Darkness is all he's ever known.

Now in context – don't forget about the announcement that Jesus had just made at the Temple –

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

I also had you make a note that “He saw” – speaking about Jesus

Because when Jesus saw this blind man – He was going to respond with compassion.

When Jesus saw this blind man, He saw someone that was going to be healed.

However, His disciples saw something different.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

The disciples saw the same man who was blind from birth

However, they saw something different

They don't respond with compassion.

They are provoked to ask Jesus a theological question that was a hot topic during this time.

“What up with this guy Jesus – why is he blind, it is his fault or is it his parents fault?”

So from the first two verses – we see a difference on how Jesus saw the blind man and how the disciples saw the blind man.

And I draw this out church because it is important to note that we don't always see things the way God sees things.

And therefore, we need to pray for eyes to see things, the way God sees things.

So the disciple look at the blind man – they see the tragic circumstances that he has been dealt –

So in their thinking – either he sinned or his parents sinned

One of the beliefs among the rabbis during this time was that one could sin in the womb, or that God sovereignly knew of the sin that this man was going to commit beforehand. Therefore his punishment of blindness was issued prematurely.

The other thing that they believed in was in generational curses.

Your dad, your grandfather, your ancestors – they did really bad things, therefore God is punishing you for what they did.

Turn with me to Exodus 34 – I am going to show you where they get this from.

[Exo 34:5-7 NKJV] 5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing

[the guilty], visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

This last portion of verse 7 is what some in the church **even today** will take out of context and blame all their suffering on a generational curse.

However, what they leave out is that God said that He would show mercy & grace on ANYONE who turned to Him.

What God meant was that the fallenness of mankind is passed from generation to generation.

If we parent our children out of our fallenness, it's to be expected that we'll leave a negative mark on them & they will in turn duplicate & expand on that fallenness with their kids.

But – if ANY generation repents & turns to faith in God, then He will begin a new work & erase the effects of sin.

My father was an alcoholic

His father was an alcoholic and so on –

However, that doesn't mean that there is a curse upon my head.

Jesus has broken the cycle of sin

He has taken the curse upon Himself so that in exchange, by faith, we can be set free today.

There is no such thing as generational curses

3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

The disciples put Jesus in a corner

"Is it his fault or is it his parents fault?"

Here are your two choices

Church, what a mistake we make when we leave God with just two choices regarding dilemmas in our life.

We go before the Lord in prayer with our difficulties – and we tell Him

"ok God, here is the problem that I am facing today, and I have been gracious enough to come up with two solutions for You, God. One, I really, really like and the other one I don't like as much – so please pick A and if you pick B, I will be ok, I guess."

And many times, the answer from heaven is neither.

That was Jesus answer to His disciples – neither

This man is blind because God is going to show Himself strong in his life.

God is going to be revealed in his life

The sickness is not the result of his personal sin or his parent's sin - the purpose of his suffering is not punishment. It's to display the works of God in him.

Church, there may be some of us here this morning who are going through a difficult season in our life – and the reason for that difficulty has nothing to do with decisions that we made in the past.

Some of us may not be able to find joy in the midst of trials because we're weighed down by guilt, thinking that God is mad at us.

Some of us need to hear the words this morning, "Your period of suffering - It's not that you sinned, it's not that your husband has sinned, it's not that your wife has sinned, it's not that your parents have sinned, but that the works of God might be displayed in your life.

And one of the things we have to grasp this morning is that -

Sometimes, God will remove the problem and we are very grateful for that aren't we?

And there are other times where God will allow us to live with the problem for the rest of our lives.

He will choose to be glorified by leaving the disability, by leaving the sickness, by leaving the difficulty in our lives.

We can cry out why? However, God is not obligated to answer.

A better question to ask is “Despite what’s in my life right now, how can I glorify You in it” – God will answer that one.

We can look back at the life of Joseph as an example or even the life of Paul.

2 Cor 12 – tells us that Paul cried out three times for God to take away that thorn in the flesh.

And the answer from God was, “I am not going to take it away – my grace is sufficient for you”

I am not going to take away – I am going to add something to your life through this. You are going to experience grace like you have never experienced it before. You are going to see how sufficient I am for you in your weakness”

This is the truth

The strength of God is made perfect in our weakness.

That is what is happening with this guy

4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; [the] night is coming when no one can work. 5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Jesus makes it clear to His disciples and to us today – that the reason He is going to have this encounter with this blind man is not because He wants to have a theological discussion with him.

Jesus lived His life with an urgency!!!

He knew that in less than 6 months – He was going to go to the cross.

That is what He means by “night is coming”

The time of His future suffering on the cross is on the horizon.

When He dies, night will come, and no one will work.

As long as He is in the world, He is the light of the world.

The great new of the gospel is that because of the work of Jesus upon the cross, now we have the Holy Spirit dwelling with us – this light of Jesus is continuing to shine through us.

Church – we need to have the same urgency that Jesus lived with

We need to work while it is day

We need to invest our lives in things that matter

We need to invest our time in things that last

God has given us spiritual gifts and we want to make sure that we are using the spiritual gifts for the kingdom of God.

6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. 7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

In all the healings Jesus performed, never do we read of Him doing the same thing twice.

Sometimes He simply spoke, & the healing was done.

Other times He laid hands on the sick & they recovered.

Most times we just read that He healed; no description of technique is given.

Here he does something unique – He uses saliva & dirt to make clay which He applied to the blind man's eyes then told him to go wash.

As I was doing my study – I found different theories into why Jesus used clay and saliva.

Someone wrote that Jesus used clay and saliva because He meant this to be reminiscent of creation when He spoke and created man out of the dust of the ground.

Someone else said that He used clay and spit to enhance the miracle – the man was already blind, the mud put another layer on top of the blindness

Others said that He used clay and saliva because it was different – He didn't want His followers to reduce healing to a method.

Churches are going to have blindness healing nights where they are going to have spit and clay ready for whoever shows with glaucoma or any eye issues.

The truth is – we don't know.

However, I want to pause and I want us to think about all of this from the perspective of the blind man.

He's never seen a thing in all his life.

Unlike those who go blind after being sighted for a while, he has no visual images to draw from in his memory.

He's lived in a world of darkness.

He has no idea what's going on.

He is hearing the conversation that the disciples are having with Jesus

He hears that they are talking about him – and I am pretty sure that he probably heard the same question asked by those who had passed before.

What did this guy do to deserve the suffering?

The same question that the disciples asked Jesus.

And when he heard Jesus say that it wasn't his parents that sinned or his own sins that were responsible for his blindness – that his suffering was to display the works of God in him – can you imagine the weight that must have been lifted off his shoulders.

For the first time in his life he hears that there might be purpose in his suffering.

Then he hears how Jesus say, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day"

So he is sitting there anticipating what Jesus is going to do next and then he hears...

The blind man doesn't see Jesus spit into the ground –

But then all of a sudden, the blind man feels the wet clay against his eyes.

He puts two and two together and realizes that this guy just rubbed spit/clay in his eyes and then his eyes begin to be irritated – Ever had dirt in your eye? It hurts!

As the man wonders what's going on & why this man who sounded like he was going to help has instead added to his affliction, he's told to go and wash.

The blind man could've responded with unbelief and rebuked Jesus

"What's a matter with You putting spit and clay in my eyes"

Or he could have responded by faith and believed the words that Jesus told him.

By faith, he believed that he would be healed – that what was happening was going to manifest something for the glory of God.

He was sent, with mud and spit on his eyes, as a messenger to the pool that means “sent,” in order to proclaim to the world the truth - that the light of the world is here.

And as he made his way to the pools (1/3 mile from the temple) and washed up, as he removed the clay – he was healed.

Throughout his entire life – all he knew was darkness and for the first time in his life, he sees light.

The Light of the World has given him sight.

His entire life was transformed because he first believed and then he saw.

And his belief, led to obedience, led to healing

Church, all of us will be healed, that is a biblical truth and promise.

We are going to shed these old human bodies and we will be in the presence of Jesus Christ, with a new body, completely designed perfectly for eternity.

But, here on earth, we are all going to die.

We can't escape the reality of death.

I pray that God will be glorified through each and every one of our lives.

If God chooses to be glorified through our prosperity, so be it.

If God chooses to be glorified through our suffering, so be it.

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

May we be a people who trust Jesus in all circumstances and find joy in all situations.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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