

NEW DAY... NEW WAY

Light for the Blind

Text: John 9

INTRODUCTION: When we started reading through the New Testament, I told you that the Gospel of John was very different than the other three gospels. This is not because there is any dispute between the gospel writers as to the truth, but because God has given each of them a certain perspective of the life and work of Jesus to communicate with their readers.

While there are occasional differences between Mathew, Mark, and Luke, those differences are few and small. By and large they offer a similar view of the Savior, and that is why they are called the Synoptic Gospels.

Synoptic = Similar View

But John's perspective is clearly different. Have you noticed as we have been reading through the Gospel of John, that John calls the miracles that Jesus did "signs," indicating that by these miracles God was signifying something of great importance.

In fact, **each of the seven signs John describes teach us something about salvation.**

1. **Turning water to wine shows that salvation comes through the Word.**
2. **The healing of the nobleman's son shows us that salvation comes through faith.**
3. **Healing the man by the pool teaches that salvation is offered because of God's grace.**
4. **Feeding the 5,000 shows man's part in spreading God's miracle of salvation.**
5. **The miracle during the storm shows that Jesus offers peace in time of difficulty.**

John chapter 9 informs us of another of the many blessings of salvation:

6. **Jesus gives us light.**

Jesus had been in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. As He was walking He saw a man who was born blind.

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

A. Why was this man born blind?

1. The disciples assumed that it was because of sin, either his or his parents.

Does sin sometimes result in personal suffering or trouble? (concerning the sick man Jesus healed at the Pool of Bethesda **John 5:14** says **Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."**) So, does sin sometimes cause personal suffering? **Yes**

Does sin ever cause one's offspring or relatives to suffer? (Look at **Ex. 20:4-6** ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image--any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.) **Yes**

Is all suffering caused by personal sin or the sin of one's ancestors?

John 9:3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. **No**

So, why was this man blind?

That the works of God might be made manifest in him.

2. Let me pause briefly here to say if you have an affliction, it is not improper to ask, "Why?"

It is not improper to search for the answer.

- a. The place to start is to examine our own lives and see if the affliction could have come as a chastisement for sin in our life, and God is using the affliction to turn our hearts in repentance back to Himself. My oldest son is an amputee. He cannot walk a city block without pain in his leg. But he will be quick to tell you that he thanks the Lord for his affliction because without it, he might never have repented and turned back to the Lord!

Folks, **sometimes God causes the motor of our boat to quit before we drive it over the waterfall!**

- b. **But often times people have afflictions which are not chastisements for sin.**

So, why do they have them?

That the works of God might be made manifest in him.

- 1) Listen my friend, do you have an affliction from birth or one that having examined your own life, you are confident has not come as chastisement for sin?

That means that God wants to demonstrate His mighty works in and through you. It may be that God wants to do that through healing, but it may also be another way. God may want to demonstrate how His grace is sufficient for you even in the midst of affliction or tribulation.

- 2) If you have a loved one or a really close friend who has such an affliction, you should help them position themselves to allow God to make His works manifest in their lives. You say, "How can he or she do that?" Well, just see what the blind man did.

B. This man represents all of us who are or who have been in spiritual darkness.

There are three characteristics about this man that typify the person who lives in spiritual darkness. He was

Blind –

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

The unsaved person cannot see spiritually. He cannot understand spiritual things. He gropes and stumbles in spiritual darkness; yet he loves the darkness rather than the light.

Begging – The lost may be all right materially, but they desperately search for something to satisfy the emptiness of the soul.

Helpless – He could not cure himself. Others could offer no permanent assistance. So it is with those who know not Christ. There is only one who can help – "The man called Jesus."

C. The Cure

John 9:4–11 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."

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.

⁸ Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

⁹ Some said, "This is he." Others *said*, "He is like him." He said, "I am *he*."

¹⁰ Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

¹¹ He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

As the physical darkness of the blind man pictures the darkness of the lost, so Jesus' bringing light to blind eyes pictures the way He brings light into lives darkened by sin.

1. It was an act of grace.

As was the healing of the man who lay crippled by the pool, this healing was **undeserved** and **unearned**. In fact, it was **unsolicited**.

As we have read through the Bible, have you noticed that even before man even realized his need for a Savior to die to pay for his sins, God promised to send One.

Without our asking, God answered. We did not convince God that we were worthy of His help.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Notice also

2. The circumstances surrounding God's miracle in his life were unpleasant.

What did Jesus do to the man's eyes? Put clay on them. Not only that, the clay was made from Jesus' spit!

How do you suppose that felt?

When the Word of God is read or proclaimed, is it always pleasant to hear? No. **God's Word is sharper than a sword. Sharp swords often induce pain. When the Holy Spirit convicts a person of his need to trust Jesus or leads a person to make a commitment to the Lord, the circumstances are often unpleasant and sometimes painful!**

3. But the blind man was cured by Christ's power.

Neither Mohammed or Buddha, nor Joseph Smith could give a blind man his sight. Jesus alone brings light of life.

If you are living in spiritual darkness, Jesus will bring light into your life. He is the Light of the World.

John 3:18–21 ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But

he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

D. When God demonstrates His power, it causes quite a commotion!

Immediately the city was in an uproar. “The blind beggar can see!” Everyone was asking questions.

Particularly disturbed by the event was that group of self-righteous hypocrites called the Pharisees because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath. Therefore they threatened to cast the blind man made well out of the synagogue.

For this to happen would mean a loss of friends, job, and identification with other Jews.

When the man’s parents were called in to testify, what did they say? “Ask him, he is old enough to answer.”

Why did they deny Christ? For fear of the Jews.

People still deny Christ for fear of other people and what they think.

E. The Blind Man believed and trusted Jesus.

1. The blind man refused to succumb to the pressure. We can trace his confession through this chapter by noting the phrases he used to describe Jesus.

9:11 The man called Jesus

9:17 A prophet

9:31-33 Man from God

9:35-38 Son of God

John 9:35–38 ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” ³⁶ He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” ³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

2. **Because of his confession, he was cast out of the synagogue of men, but he entered the Kingdom of God.** Following Jesus often means alienation from things of the world; but it means being a part of God’s Forever Family.