

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 9:1-12

INTRODUCTION: JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND

This new Chapter begins with someone who was born blind.

It also reveals the different reactions from various people to the miracles that Jesus was doing. There was the neighbours reactions, the Pharisees reactions and then the parents reactions.

We have to ask ourselves why?

Why first of all did Jesus perform this miracle and why do we see the differing reactions by these people to the miracle?

Why could they not simply believe?

Well we will see in the scripture that follows the answer to all these questions, as well as additional answers to more questions.

We begin this morning's scripture with the Lord, leaving the Temple where he was preaching eternal life to the Jews because they spoke against Him in all that he was trying to teach them. They had become aggressive to the point of wanting to kill him because everything that the Lord was teaching was against what the Jews had believed.

So now we see the Lord, entering another part of His earthly ministry.

- This morning we are only going to deal with Jesus healing the blind man, and then the next Lords day we shall see the religious leaders questioning the blind man.

John 9:1-12

¹ And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

1. It takes a great deal of compassion for someone to do good things for someone else. And it takes even greater compassion to do things for strangers that you don't even know.
2. What is lacking today is compassion. Less and less people feel compassion towards others. Instead they seek gratification for themselves, and could not care less about others.
3. But here in our text we see the great compassion that Jesus had towards people and their physical needs.
4. In this verse we see that it was not a planned encounter with people that had needs but this was an encounter of a person who Jesus saw that had a need.

5. This was not a man that had been pointed out to Jesus by others, or even by his disciples, but this was a man that Jesus had seen in passing. I was not necessary for anyone to announce to Jesus what was wrong with this man because he saw and knew in himself what his needs were.
6. This man's needs were not just physical, but his needs were also spiritual.
7. Neither did this man come to Jesus first. Jesus came to him.

² And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

1. When Jesus paid this man attention, he was immediately confronted by his disciples as to who was to be blamed for his condition.
2. The question was worded in such a way as to cast the blame of the sin, either to the man himself, or to blame his parents for sinning.
3. Their claim of being born blind was being attributed to either his sin or his parents.

³ Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

1. Having not understood the reason for this man's blindness, the disciples had asked this question.
2. Jesus presented with this question of sin, answered it in the correct manner.
3. The reason why this blindness and these kinds of defects happen is firstly because God allows it.
4. It does not mean that every person will be born with a defect. We know from the scriptures that because of Adams sin, sin has passed on to all generations.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, **for that all have sinned:**

5. **But....**
6. Whilst we are responsible for our own sin, and our parents are responsible for their sin, it does not mean that the condition we were born with is a result of our sin.
7. But the consequence of our parent's sin could result in a birth defect as a result of them taking abusive medication or drugs. This is because of a physiological change in their ability to pass this condition on at birth.
8. **But.....**this was not what the question was about. The question was whether because they are sinners that this happened. Therefore the answer from the Lord was No.
9. **But.....**in this case where this person had been born blind.....it was going to be a case in which God would use it as a testimony to His power and glory, as a witness for other non believing Jews to see.
10. That is why Jesus said in this verse 3: **that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**
11. This man was to be a testimony of what God would do in him (*manifest in him*).
12. It was to be *a testimony for the Jews to believe that Jesus was God*, because this was *a work that only God could do*, and the Jews knew that. That is why Jesus did it.

13. Secondly the result of Jesus healing this blind man, in fact brought this man to believe that Jesus was God. And the blind man even testified to that.
 14. In the NT every time Jesus healed a person a Jew was always present.
 15. Further to the blind man Jesus said: **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents.**
 16. If sin is passed on from Adam to others because of Adams sin, then we know that sin is present even at conception, because life begins at conception, and therefore sin is present.
 17. But in the sense of him doing something that was sin at his birth “in why he could have taken part to create his condition is not possible”. Therefore he could not have done anything to cause himself to be born blind. That’s why Jesus said what he said. **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents.**
- The Apostle Paul reminded the church at Corinth later on in the scriptures that God uses the weak things of the world to show his mighty works. Here is that verse.

1 Corinthians 1:26-28

²⁶ For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, **to bring to nought things that are:**

- It is the least expected things that God uses to show his plan of salvation.
- Just like Sarah who was too old to bear children. God showed up and that all changed.

Genesis 18:11-13

¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? ¹³ And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

Romans 4:18-20 ¹⁸ Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹ And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, **when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb.** ²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

- a) God uses a hopeless situation and impossible situation to bring to pass his capability and authority and power.
- b) God uses these situations not to prove anything to himself, but to make believers of the people he is addressing.

- c) The tendency of people is to ask themselves what they have done to deserve the situation that they are in.
- d) The answers are. It's not that they deserve the situation that they are in, but what can God use as a result of that situation that they find themselves in.
- e) Trials are meant to turn us to God, not away from God. And trials are to strengthen our faith in God.
- f) Trials are to teach us a lesson of how to look to God in a time of need.
- g) We are not to blame God for our trials or situation that we find ourselves in. We are not even to blame ourselves either. Instead we are to Give God the glory in our trials.
- h) Sadly man people do blame God for the condition that they are in, or they blame themselves. This is not what Jesus said in verse 3.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

- Any situation can honor God.

4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

1. Jesus was doing his Fathers will. The works which he had to do was the works of His Fathers will. These works where that of preaching who God was and is, and what was to come.
2. It was the salvation of His Son's works. It was the physical work of preaching and telling others about the wonderful works of God.
3. His work was His Fathers work, even in the healing of a blind man.
4. It was God the Father who sent His Son. (John 3:16).
5. We have to wonder what would have happened to us if God the Father never sent God the Son? To help us.
6. What could we have don't to make right with God ?. The answer is nothing and we would have died in our Sins for sure.

The answer to the disciples about the blind man being born blind led to a spiritual answer.

Jesus said that he had to do the works of his Father whilst it was still day.

- a. When God uses the word day or night it is a metaphor of great significance. Here we will see what it means

Day: What did it mean?

a) The day is used in reference to Jesus being the light of the day. When he is that spiritual light and represents truth. Everything that is in the day is the time in which we have left to honor God, and to get ready for the Lord. It is a time when the people can prepare themselves for the Lords return when he comes back for us one day.

b) While it is still day.

Hebrews 3:12-14

¹² Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another daily, **while it is called To day**; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Hebrews 3:14-16

¹⁴ For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; ¹⁵ **While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice**, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. ¹⁶ For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

Amos 5:17-19

¹⁷ And in all vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD. ¹⁸ Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! **to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.** ¹⁹ As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

Night: What did it mean?

a) Darkness is described as the place of evil. It is used as a metaphor to represent those who have abandoned God and set their eyes upon unbelief.

b) The night is represented as a metaphor to indicate that it will be too late to accept God as our savior. It will be too late to have completed those tasks which should have been done whilst it was still light.

Job 10:20-22

²⁰ Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little, ²¹ Before I go whence I shall not return, **even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death;** ²² **A land of darkness, as darkness itself;** and of the shadow of death, without any order, and **where the light is as darkness.** (*absence of light no Lord*)

- That is why the thief will come in the night. When the day is over and all are sleeping and there is nothing else for them to do. The thief comes in the night to take what he can get.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord** so cometh as a **thief in the night.**

- The night is metaphor of the closing time of Jesus' return.

Romans 13:11-13 ¹¹ And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

¹² **The night is far spent, the day is at hand**: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put **on the armour of light**.

¹³ Let us walk honestly, **as in the day**; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

7. There will be no time to work at night. That will be the time when Jesus will come metaphorically.
8. That's why Jesus said in verse 4: **the night cometh, when no man can work**.
9. There the Lord works in the day (time for us to repent). Before he comes back in the night for judgment. (no time for us to repent).

⁵ **As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world**.

1. This statement that Jesus made in front of his disciples and the Jews, is significant because it gives everyone the time to repent.
2. As long as Jesus is working in the world which is even up to this very day, he still proclaims to everyone that he is the light of the world, in which they can still and still have the time to repent.
3. After the Lord, Jesus comes in the night it will be too late to repent.
4. Another statement of his deity is made here as **I am the light of the world**.

⁶ **When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,**

1. This verse demonstrates the way in which Jesus would reveal his power in healing a man who was blind.
2. It would give a physical demonstration to everyone to see.....excuse the pun.
3. It would provide a way in which the blind man could also witness the way in which he was healed. It would also require the faith of the blind man to obey Jesus.

⁷ **And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.**

1. The faith of the blind man was revealed not just in the fact that he could see, but in the fact that he took Jesus at His word when he "could not see". Faith is in what we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, **the evidence of things not seen**.

2. This man had faith to see the things that mattered even though he was blind. His faith was in believing that Jesus was able to do what he proclaimed because He was God.
3. This is a very illustrative text of a man having put his faith in something he could not see even if he wanted to. The reason is he was blind and could not see anyway.
4. The receiving of sight for the blind was a miracle that was reserved for the Messiah (Isa 61:1,2) This is evidenced by the fact that not one time in the OT

was this miracle performed, except the temporary blindness God used to save Elijah from the Syrian army.

5. Curing of blindness was the signature miracle of the Messiah, and that is why the amazement, and perhaps even fear, manifest in the religious authorities regarding this prominent miracle. For a prophet to cure blindness was to say that that prophet was THE prophet. It was, to refer to the Isaiah passage, not just restoring sight to the blind, but declaring the acceptable year of the LORD.
6. **Siloam does not just mean "sent"** it means gushing forth. So here the miracle of the man cured of his blindness was truly a gushing forth of God's redemption to mankind.
7. Why here and not elsewhere? Because this miracle was carefully examined by the religious authorities, even calling the parents to verify, and was consequently an undeniable proof that Jesus was not a fraud, a man not deserving of their contempt and punishment, but of their worship.
8. The miracle was a clear indication that the sent one had gushed forth into the world, and the acceptable year of the LORD was on hand.
9. The **pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.)** reveals to us that Jesus was also sent. He was sending the blind man to wash in a pool of water that was called sent.....just in the same way that his Father had sent him.
10. In faith the man returned seeing. **and came seeing.**

⁸ The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

1. His blindness was witnessed before the miracle by his neighbors and those which had seen him before.
2. They all knew him as a beggar who sat and begged.
3. Blindness was the key confirmation here.

⁹ Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.

1. The scripture says that even though some may have doubted, the blind man confirmed that it in fact was him who begged and was blind.

¹⁰ Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

1. Here we see questions about the miracle.
2. This tells us that they did see a miracle because they were asking him how was his eyes opened that he could now see.

¹¹ He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.

1. The blind man gave witness of his miracle.
2. The blind man gave Jesus the glory. He told them who Jesus was and how he performed the miracle.
3. The detail was not just important for those he told it to but it was also important for him that he could reconcile what had just happened to him.
4. Where he was blind now he could see.

¹² **Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.**

1. The man could have lied but he did not.
2. He told the truth about what had happened.
3. Even though Jesus did not stay to see the man, yet the man still gave Jesus the glory.

This was all done on the Sabbath day.....

Isaiah 9:2

² The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

- It can only be the Lord who opens the eyes of the people.
- The open eyes of the people are yet blind spiritually, until the Lord opens their eyes.
- Then they shall see.

PRAYER.....CLOSE