"Ask the Blind Man, He Saw it All!"

(John 9:1 - 11, 18 - 25)

The Gospel according to John places great emphasis upon the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The many miracles highlighted throughout this book magnify the power and authority of the Son of God. Believers stand astonished and amazed at the miracles of Christ, while skeptics and doubters accuse and attack the demonstrations of deity preserved in the Holy Scriptures.

John recorded the details of the Lord's miraculous healing of a blind man in our text. This compassionate act of Christ certainly warms the heart of the children of God. All of us can relate to the testimony given by the blind man in verse twenty-five: "one thing I know, that, whereas, I was blind, now I see." Jesus Christ has opened the spiritual eyes of many sinners in order that we might see the light of the Gospel. He is the only One with the power and authority to do so!

The Lord's healing of the blind man was not without controversy. As a matter of fact, the reaction of the religious was one of hostility and anger in the Temple. Those who professed to be followers of God completely missed the message of the miracle. They also persecuted the man who was healed of his blindness. Furthermore, they slandered the Lord Jesus by calling Him a sinner. The reactions of the religious proved that their spiritual blindness was far greater than the physical blindness of the man that Christ healed!

The inspiration for our message arises from a statement made by
the parents of the blind man who was healed. They had been severely questioned by the Jews and the Pharisees. Fear certainly played a factor in their answer to the accusations. The parents attempted to avert the attention off themselves and back upon their son. Our thought proceeds from verse twenty-one of the ninth chapter. "But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself."

*Ask the blind man, he saw it all!

I. The Tragedy of the Lost

A. This was a Difficult Case.

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

(John 9:1)

Physical blindness is a very serious disability. Those of us who can see have little comprehension of the terrible effect blindness has upon the blind. Even though many blind people have accomplished great things in life, the lack of physical eye sight has stolen much of life's beauties.

The man in our text had lived with this disability all the days of his life. The condition of being blind from birth provides a clear picture of the sinner. Every sinner is born in a blind spiritual condition. Without Christ, the sinner walks in the darkness of sin and is not able to see the spiritual truths of God's word. It would be more difficult for a sinner to understand a spiritual truth than it would for a person born blind to understand the color blue. What is color to one who has never seen? What is truth to one whose spirit is dead in trespasses and sins? The sinner will remain blind until the glorious light of the Gospel shines in his heart and brings eternal redemption to his soul.
"The man was born blind. He had never seen the light of day, the silver gleam of Galilee, or a sunset over Carmel. He had never seen a daisy, a bird, a human face. He had grown up from babyhood through boyhood to manhood in the impenetrable darkness of the totally blind."

(J. Phillips)

B. There was a **Debatable Concern.**

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

(John 9:2)

These disciples made the supposition that all such disability was the result of sin. Their erroneous way of thinking has endured the test of time and is still lingering around in the minds of many fundamentalists today. They are quick to make their judgment call on people who are sick and suffering in the flesh. However, the Lord Jesus was swift in dismissing the false assumption of His disciples. Christ made it clear that this man's condition was *not* punishment for sin. The Lord did not say that no human disability is the result of sin. He simply stated that such was not the case in this man's life. All of us would be wise to let God be the judge concerning the condition of hurting people around us!

"The question His disciples ask Him shows a common train of thought that nearly all human beings follow when seeing someone 'down and out.' We assume it must be because of sin (Acts 28:4, for example). The blind man must have been born blind either because God knew he was *going to sin* after his birth or because his parents sinned *before his birth*. This type of immediate judging may be wrong, but it certainly must have a basis, or it wouldn't be so universal. It was universal in Job's day, for all three of Job's buddies attributed his misfortunes to his 'misconduct.' As in Job's case, this blind man had been
blinded so the *works of God should be made manifest in him* (vs. 3); ditto Job (Job 41 - 42)."

(P. Ruckman)

C. There was a Deliberate Cause.

(John 9:3 - 5)

1. To Reveal God's Touch

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

(John 9:3)

The cause of this man's blindness was of divine origin. It was planned in Heaven with a specific purpose in mind. The words of Christ did not assert the sinlessness of these people; He simply severed the supposed link between their conduct and the affliction before them. Christ made it clear that this affliction did not center around man's sin, but rather, God's sovereignty! The ultimate design was to reveal God's touch. As contrary as this may seem to our limited human perspective, we must take our stand upon the Sovereign character of our Heavenly Father.

*He is too loving to be unkind!

*He is too wise to make a mistake!

*He is too powerful to be hindered in His infinite purpose!

"This man's blindness was the touch of God in his life. It was part of a plan unknown to anyone but God and his Christ, a plan intended to bring Christ into this man's life and ultimate praise and glory to God."

(J. Phillips)

2. To Reveal God's Timing

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

(John 9:4)

The timing of this man's need was designed to coincide with the Messiah's earthly ministry. God was at work in the lives of men on earth. However, Christ was only here for a short sojourn. Opportunities to minister would soon pass away. Therefore, our Lord was quick to act in service and compassion for helpless sinners. All of God's people should learn from our Lord's example and be swift about our Father's business on this earth. The "night" is coming when no man can work!

3. To Reveal God's Truth

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

(John 9:5)

The blindness of the man in our text provided the background against which Jesus proclaimed another one of His "I AM" statements. He had previously declared Himself as "the light of the world," but this circumstance enabled Him to reinforce it with clarity and conviction. In His former proclamation, the background related to a moral problem. The statement followed His forgiveness of a woman taken in adultery (John 8:12). Here in our text, the issue was a mental problem. The pain and suffering of the blind man was no doubt a torment to the minds of many. Yet, Christ proclaimed again that He is the light of the world. He then proceeded to give physical sight to this helpless man, demonstrating His power over the problems in this world. No matter what the situation is, Jesus Christ is the answer!

"Christ could cure this blind man, the representative of a blind world, because he came to be the light of the world, not only to give light, but give sight."

(M. Henry)
II. The **Touch of the Lord**

The blind man could not see Christ, but Christ saw the blind man and had compassion upon him. The blind man could not come to Christ, but Christ came to the blind man. Christ healed him without being asked to do so. It is the grace of God that brings the Gospel to the sinner even though the sinner is not seeking the Gospel. If it were not for the grace of God coming to rescue the sinner, none of us could ever be saved!

A. The **Clay**

"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."

(John 9:6)

The method that our Lord used in the healing of the blind man may have seemed peculiar to the natural mind. Man cannot always understand the ways that God elects to work. Some of His ways even seem foolish in the eyes of the world. No doubt there are many who consider the preaching of the Gospel foolish and ridiculous. However, it is God's ordained method of giving spiritual eye sight to blind and helpless sinners. (I Corinthians 1:18)

"The method Christ takes is first to make men feel themselves blind, as this poor man did whose eyes were daubed with clay...we must be made uneasy with our blindness, as this man here, and then healed."

(M. Henry)

B. The **Command**

"And said unto him, **Go, wash in the pool of Siloam,** (which is by interpretation, Sent.)..."
The command of Christ to the blind man was very plain. There was nothing difficult to understand about what he was instructed to do. Failure to obey the commands of Christ can never be attributed to our inability to understand the command. The blind man did exactly as Christ commanded him to. Blessings came as the result of proper obedience.

C. The Change

"...He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

The product of this man's submission was sight. The man who once was blind was blind no more. The amazing grace of God had opened his physical eyes. A genuine work of grace always produces very evident results. Others gave testimony to the fact of this miracle. When God does a work of grace in a sinner's life, others will notice a change. If there is no change to be seen, evidently a person has not experienced salvation. God's grace still has the power to open blinded eyes and change ruined lives!

(II Corinthians 5:17)

"When a genuine work of grace has been wrought in a soul it is impossible to conceal it from our neighbors and acquaintances."

(A. W. Pink)

III. The Talk of the Legalists

A. They Attacked his Faith.

It is no surprise that this miracle of Christ was questioned by the Pharisees of His day. Every time God does a work in a person's life, skeptics will arise to voice their opposition about the healed
and the Healer. The Pharisees in our text were ruled by legalism. They proclaimed that Jesus Christ could not be of God since He performed miracles on the Sabbath. Because Christ did not subscribe to their twisted interpretations of the law, they called the Son of God a sinner. It is evident that their "standards" were more important than the healing of hurting people. What a shame it is that these fundamental Pharisees are still around today, twisting God's word to fulfill their own agenda!

"It was the issue of the Sabbath. They were upset because Christ had dared to heal this man on the Sabbath. The religious leaders had made so many picky rules and regulations about the Sabbath that it was a crime to even heal the blind man on the Sabbath. The Pharisees acted like policemen in enforcing all these man-made laws. In healing the blind man, Jesus had violated rabbinical rules of the Sabbath. However, He had not violated any Divine rules about the Sabbath rest, but in healing the man had, in fact, fulfilled the spirit of the Divine laws of the Sabbath; for He had given rest from the weariness of blindness."

(J. Butler)

B. They Attacked his Family.

(John 9:18 - 23)

The legalists were not content to stop with questioning the blind man who had been healed. Their next move was to question the man's family. It is unfortunate that this family compromised in the face of fear. Intimidation of the most powerful party in Jerusalem caused them to deny the knowledge of what really happened to their son. It does not speak well of the character of this man's family. However, it speaks even more negatively of a group of religious skeptics who would go out of their way to disprove the power of the Lord Jesus Christ!

C. They Attacked his Friend.
"Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, *Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.*"

(John 9:24)

No matter what Jesus Christ said or did, in the eyes of the legalist party, he was a sinner. Their use of the word "sinner" in reference to Christ insinuated that He missed the mark and failed to keep the law of God. They failed to realize and respect the power and perfection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This type of insult directed at the Son of God certainly causes one to stand on dangerous ground before a Sovereign God!

"Praising God and calling Jesus a sinner is a huge contradiction. But we still have descendants of these contradictors whose theology makes Christ nothing better than ordinary man, and yet they want to glorify God. These persecutors want the blind man to glorify God by giving Him credit for the miracle, but they do not want any credit given to Christ. But Jesus is God, so it is impossible to glorify God by calling Jesus Christ a sinner."

(J. Butler)

**IV. The Testimony of the Liberated**

A. The Confession

"He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."

(John 9:25)

Two notable things can be said concerning the testimony of the healed blind man. It was *brief* and *bold*! He refused to discuss the question of whether or not Christ was a sinner. To him, that was beside the point. What was important was the fact that now he could see! "Once I was blind but now I see!" What a
testimony! It has been echoed by millions down through the centuries. Babes in Christ who are not yet sufficiently knowledgable to debate theological questions can stand and say, "One thing I know, I was blind, but now I see!" It is hard to refute a testimony such as this.

B. The Casting Out

"They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out."

(John 9:34)

The blind man soon found out that there is a price to pay for standing up for Jesus Christ. The religious leaders excommunicated him from the synagogue, cut him off from the religious life of the nation, and treated him as a spiritual leper who was to be avoided by one and all who did not share his fate. Excommunication meant that no one would employ him and that his family would probably disown him. He would not be allowed to have any part in the services of the temple. Yet, a greater blessing was waiting for this man just outside the religious circle. He was soon to experience the presence of the Son of God. The pain of being put out by the Pharisees does not compare to the blessings of being accepted by the Lord of Heaven and Earth!

"Seldom does the world favor those who are favored by God. Also, seldom is truth honored by the world. It certainly was not here. The blind man had stood up and spoken the truth about Christ and exposed the stupidity of the persecutors; but his reward by the world was to be cast out. The cost of discipleship can be very great. But, as we will soon note, those that are cast out by the world are received by Christ. The healed man was cast out of the synagogue but not out of the presence of Christ. The Jews did not want him but Jesus did!"
"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him."

(John 9:35 - 38)

The first part of our text in John chapter nine records the miracle of the blind man obtaining physical eye sight. The last few verses of this chapter shows him having his eyes opened spiritually.

"What a lovely climax is this in the spiritual history of the blind beggar! How it illustrates the fact that when God begins a good work, He continues and completes it."

(A. W. Pink)

The man's eyes now looked upon the face of the only begotten Son of God. He had not previously been blessed to look upon the face of His Saviour. But now, his eyes beheld Him who is altogether lovely! His heart must have leaped for joy as he looked upon His Saviour, Healer, and Redeemer!

"The man's eyes were riveted to the face of Jesus. He had not seen much yet with these new eyes of his. But this he knew. If he lived to be as old as Methuselah, he would never see a more wonderful sight than the face of Jesus. And that voice, he had heard it before and he knew its authority, truth, and power. He had no hesitation. Down he went at Jesus' feet!"

(J. Phillips)
"Those who believe in him will see all the reason in the world to worship him!"

(M. Henry)

CONCLUSION:

What a wonderful day this was in the life of the man born blind. No other day would ever compare to the joy he must have felt on this day. Not only were his physical eyes opened, but his eyes were opened spiritually as well. His relationship with Jesus Christ had just begun. That is one relationship that will last eternally!

If this lost world desires to know anything of Jesus Christ, let them ask God's converted blind people. All of us can surely testify to this truth, "I once was blind, but NOW I see!"

Evangelist Jeremiah Dixon

[Website] www.liftingupjesus.com