

The Man Born Blind

No. 252

Introduction.

- I. Once Jesus and His disciples passed a man who had born blind. (Jn. 9:1-11).
- II. John tells us here of one of the great miracles of Jesus.
 - A. This miracles shows the immense power and compassion of Christ.
 - B. It teaches us some great spiritual truths.
- I. **A Lesson On Human Suffering** - One lesson we learn is a lesson on human suffering.
 - A. **Here is a man who had been born blind.** This man had never seen a sunrise, a rainbow, or the sun set. He had never seen his mother's face or his own reflection in a mirror. He had lived all his days in total darkness and poverty and humiliation.
 - B. **His disciples jumped to a false conclusion.**
 1. **They accepted the false idea that all suffering is the result of sin.**
 - a. This man was suffering; therefore, sin had been committed.
 - b. They held the preposterous notion that the man had sin in his mother womb or that the parents had sinned and cause the boy to be blind.
 2. **Their conclusion was false**
 - a. Sin is horrible, it has led to the suffering of millions of people today.
 - b. Sin is nothing to play with and needs to be rooted from our lives.
 - C. **Jesus insisted that this man was not blind because of personal sins or the sins of his parents.**
 1. He was blind that God's power might be manifested in him.
 2. Jesus used the blindness of this man to prove the awesome power of God and His own Deity.
- II. **All-Surpassing Power Of The Savior** - A second lesson we learn from this story of the blind man is the **all-surpassing power of the Savior.**
 - A. **During Jesus' ministry He did all kind of miracles.** He healed the blind, the lame, the deaf, and the demon-possessed. He brought health to a woman with an issue of blood, relief to Peter's mother-in-law who suffered with her fever. He brought a little boy back from the dead and returned him to his mother. There was no infirmity, no weakness, and no problem that Jesus could not heal.

B. When Jesus healed, He used a **variety of methods**.

1. On some occasions He laid hands on a person. On other occasions He said a prayer. On another occasion He put his fingers into the ears of a man who was deaf. Here He uses mud on a blind man's eyes.
2. **Why did He use so many different methods?** I do not know for sure. I think that Jesus wanted to make sure we were not concerned with the method but were concerned with the One doing the healing.

C. **In our text the Pharisees and other people kept asking** the recently healed blind man how he was healed.

1. They should not have been concerned about the how . . . they should have been seeking the "Who?".
2. **At this moment in our lives**, we may be wondering how we are going to overcome our depression, our loneliness, our heartaches, or our physical troubles. Instead of wondering how, we ought to be seeking the Who!
3. **Jesus is the Who that can take care of our problems.** He can help us face and overcome our problems. He can take our hopeless situations and turn them into hope. He did this for the blind man and He can do this for you and I.

III. **Our Stubborn Resistance To God's Work In Our Lives** - A third lesson we learn from the story of the blind man is our stubborn resistance to God's work in our lives.

A. In this story, the neighbors and leaders of this man's community were suspicious of the healing. They thought something fishy was going on. Look at what they did to escape the reality of what happened:

1. They questioned **the reality of what happened** (vv. 8, 9).

JOH 9:8 The neighbors therefore, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" 9 Others were saying, "This is he," still others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one."

2. They **accused Jesus of being a law breaker** (v. 16).

JOH 9:16 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.

3. They sought to **intimidate the parents of the man** (vv. 18-23).

JOH 9:18 The Jews therefore did not believe it of him, that he had been blind, and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, 19 and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" 20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he shall speak for himself. " 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed, that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. 23 For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

4. They attacked the integrity of the witness (vv. 26-28).

26 They said therefore to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" 28 And they reviled him, and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

B. All these things were done to keep from giving credit to God or Christ for a great miracle.

1. Men today use all kinds of devices to keep from recognizing the work of God and Christ.

Deny God Existence	Deist Position (God created the world, but is indifferent)	Deny anything they cannot explain	Refuse To Pray Refuse to pray God's will be done.	Assign everything to luck. "Good Luck"
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2. They refuse to accept and believe these scriptures. (Psa. 46:1; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 3:20; Phil. 4:13).

IV. Jesus Was Not A Sinner - A fourth lesson we learn from this account of the blind man is Jesus was not a sinner.

A. The Pharisees tried to dismiss this miracle by suggesting that Jesus was a sinner and God would not work a miracle through a sinner.

1. **They affirmed they knew Moses was from God**, but they did not know where Christ was from.
2. They were really affirming Jesus was a sinner and He was not God's Son.

B. Listen to the bold way the former blind man answered them. (Jn. 9:30-34).

30 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. 31 "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him. 32 "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered and said to him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they put him out.

1. They got mad because this former blind man was trying to teach them.
2. **Even though they refused to accept that Jesus was from God, it was true.** Jesus was God's Son and God was doing powerful things through Him. (Jn. 20:30, 31).
3. Even though they thought Jesus was a sinner, it was not true. (1 Jn. 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:22).

C. I would like to pause here for a moment to deal with a false teaching that has arisen by taking the statement of the former blind man out of context.

1. **Some have quoted** the statement of the former blind man, "We know that God does not hear sinners" to teach that God does not hear the prayers of non-Christians.

2. **This is not the point the former blind man was making.** He was affirming that Jesus was not an imposter because God would not work a miracle through a sinner. He was not discussing the subject of prayer.
3. It is true that a sinner cannot be saved by prayer alone, but it is false to affirm God never hears the prayers of sinners who are seeking to turn to Him.
 - a. **Paul** (Acts 9:8, 9; 22:16).
 - b. **Cornelius** (Acts 10:1-2, 5; 11:13, 14).
4. **Proverbs is very helpful on this subject.** (Prov. 28:9). What is the meaning of this statement?
 - a. It means that God will not answer the prayers of those who are turning their backs on Him. He will answer the prayers of those who spurn Him and His commandments.
 - b. It does not mean that God never hears the prayers of a sinner who is seeking His grace and will.

V. **Simple Nature Of Personal Witnessing** - A fifth lesson we learn from this miracle is the simple nature of personal witnessing.

- A. Christians often think they cannot share Christ unless they know what the Bible has to say on every subject. If we are not armed with tons of Scripture and have answers to every conceivable question we feel we must remain silent. But that's not true.
- B. **We see this man share his simple testimony.** The Pharisees said, "Give glory to God, We know this man is a sinner." Now listen to the man's simple and beautiful response: "Whether He is a sinner or not, I do not know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (vs. 25).
- C. **Do we see what he did?** He did not worry about what He could answer. He simply testifies to what he has seen and experienced and knows to be true. Jesus does not ask us to know every answer. He asks us to testify of our relationship to Him and to what we know.
- D. **We can learn a lot from this man.** Our simple expression of what Christ has done in our lives will impact those around us for the gospel. It will lead scores of people to Christ and salvation.

Conclusion.

- I. Indeed there are many great lessons we can learn from the healing of the blind man. We have not exhausted the meaning of this great narrative, but hopefully we have wet our appetites to search out and apply all the great lessons we learn from this great study.
- II. **It is sad to be blind, but there is something that is much worse than being physically blind.** The saddest thing is to be spiritually blind. It is to be lost in our sins. It is to refuse to see Jesus as God's beloved Son. It is to refuse to come to the One who is the Light of the world and calls us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. It is to refuse to obey the simple teachings He and His apostles gave about salvation.
- III. **Come to the Light of the world.**
 - A. Let Him save you and open your eyes to all the wonders of salvation and to all the wonders and beauties of heaven.

B. Confessing your faith in Him and confessing your sins be buried with Him in the waters of baptism. You can then shout, "I was blind, but now I see. I was lost, but now I am saved." Come as we stand and sing.

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