

“I ONCE WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE”

John 9:1-12

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INTRODUCTION

Last Sunday evening we saw that we all were formerly “dead men walking”—lost sinners living our lives under the absolute bondage of the world, the Devil, and the flesh. We were **dead in our trespasses and sins**” (Ephesians 2:1-3). Not only were we dead, we were also spiritually blind—like the Pharisee Saul when on the road to Damascus, struck down by Jesus with physical blindness, now doubly blind both spiritually and physically. Yes, we were “blinded” by the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4), blinded by the “darkness” (I John 2:11), blinded in our “minds.” By our very nature—total depravity—we were the “children of wrath.”

The main character of John 9 is a blind man—nameless to us—who later testifies: “One thing I do know, that whereas I was blind, now I see.” This man symbolizes all humans who are, like him, born blind, surrounded with darkness, without hope and without God in a wicked and heartless world. All we can do is sit and beg for alms, looking for someone to show compassion upon us and to make our difficult portion in life a little more comfortable.

But, there is no hope—not until **Jesus comes and takes notice of us**, and then **heals us of our blindness**.

Too many of us are like the disciples. We do not notice the blind people all around us. We would merely pass by, occupied with our own concerns and pursuits. But, Jesus notices, and He takes action. Praise the Lord for that!

- If you are a child of God given life and light by the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ, how can you pass by and ignore the multitudes who are blind? Jesus said that ***“we must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day.”***
 - If you are yet blind in your sins, lost and hopeless in a corrupt world, how can you continue to ignore the Savior as he speaks with you and offers you the gift of sight? **Obey Him and receive your sight!**
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In this text we see *The Person of Blindness, The Reason for Blindness, The Plan for Blindness, The Power to Heal Blindness, The Perplexity over Restored Sight, and The Person with the Cure for Blindness.*

I. THE PERSON OF BLINDNESS (1)

- A. His Condition—“blind from birth” (congenital blindness)
- B. His Occupation—“a beggar” (v. 8) (although he could not have been begging on the Sabbath)
- C. His Observation—Jesus “saw” him.
Notice that the disciples did not apparently do so!

II. THE REASON FOR BLINDNESS (2-3)

A. General Truth—All sin and resultant suffering is due to Adam’s sin (cf. Rom. 5:12-18; 8:18-25; Eph. 2:3).

B. Speculative “truth” (2)

1. Did the parents sin?

2. Did the person sin?—possibly in the womb (cf. Gen 25:22—the twins struggling in the womb)?

C. Actual Truth (3)

The **cause** of the condition is not for us to determine, nor to “sweat over.”

The **purpose** should be our primary concern.

1. Neither directly due to the man’s personal sin, nor to the sins of his parents

2. The situation arose in order that “the works of God might be displayed in him.”

This statement hints at the divine purpose.

We must realize that IT IS NOT ABOUT US! It is all about God.

III. THE PLAN FOR BLINDNESS (4-5)

A. Joint Work is Necessary (4)—“**WE must work.**”

To what “works” does Jesus primarily refer? Mainly the work of “believing upon the Son of God and being saved (6:29). We must work to bring souls to the Savior!

B. Christ’s Mission—“the works of Him who **sent Me.**”

It is the mission of Christ in which we have a part. We have marching orders and rules to follow (cf. Mt. 28:19-20).

C. The Time of Divine Opportunity—“While it is day”.

D. Onset of night—the opportunity is passing quickly—“No one can work at night.”

E. Christ is the Light of the world while He is in the world.

Today, he has made us His light-bearers (Phil. 2:15)

IV. THE POWER TO HEAL BLINDNESS (6-7)

A. The Process

1. Spittle and clay (believed curative value of spittle, and also of clay)

2. Anointing of the eyes

3. Command to wash in the pool of Siloam. Meaning of Siloam—“Sent” (water “sent” into the pool via a channel—cf. our “aqueduct”—water conductor).

B. The Obedience—*Went, washed, well*

He did not come back to Jesus—not knowing where He was; but as v. 8 shows, he went home.

Note that for spiritual cleansing one must go to the One “sent” from the Father. He is the one who can save sinners and cure their blindness. He is the One who supplies water “out of the Rock” to satisfy spiritual thirst and to open blind eyes!

*Note that it is not the clay, nor the spittle that healed the man; these outward signs may have helped strengthen his confidence; primarily, the command to go and wash off the clay was a test of his faith; **submission to an apparently***

*arbitrary command—like that to Naaman in II Kings 5 in the muddy Jordan.
Cf. the command concerning the trees in Gen. 2:16-17.*

V. THE PERPLEXITY OVER RESTORED SIGHT (8-11)

- A. The Persons: The neighbors and those who previously intently watched him as a beggar.
- B. The Puzzle—“Is not this he who used to sit and beg?”
- C. The Replies: “Yes it is”; “No, it is someone resembling him”; “I am he!”
- D. The Manner: “How were your eyes opened?”

Note that they were more interested in the technique than with the miracle!

The “blind man” repeated the event, almost verbatim (v. 11).

The word for “received sight” really means “to look up” or “to see again.”

VI. THE PERSON WITH THE CURE FOR BLINDNESS (11-12)

- A. The Man who is called Jesus—he knew nothing more about Him at this point.
Jesus does mean, “Yahweh saves”!
- B. The unknown location (12)
He did not know where Jesus was, but Jesus knew where he was!

CONCLUSION

So it is with the blind sinner. You may not know much about Him, and may not know where to find Him, but He knows you and where to find you. When He does find you, you must believe in Him and trust Him! HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; HE WILL OPEN YOUR BLIND EYES.

WHAT A LESSON TO THE DISCIPLES. THERE ARE “BLIND MEN” ALL AROUND US. MEN HELPLESS AND LOST IN THEIR SINS. WE MUST NOTICE THESE PEOPLE AND ADDRESS THEM, AND SHOW THEM THE “LIGHT OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST!

As we finish chapter 9 we will see that Jesus did far more than open the man’s blind physical eyes.