

Life in His Name – Part 24
Seeing the Light – John 9:1-41
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – July 23rd, 2023

Intro:

- Many interesting things are going on in this passage that are worth investigating and discussing. I am going to continue to focus on Jesus and what the Gospel of John and this passage say about Him so that you will fully entrust yourself to Him, follow Him as your Lord, and worship Him in spirit and in truth.
- After Jesus had His confrontation at the temple with the Jewish religious leaders, they wanted to kill Jesus, so He left. As He went along, He continued to do the work that He was called to do. In this case, He had an encounter with a man born blind. I am not going to go through every verse in this passage, but again focus our attention on what we learn about Jesus.
- The first thing we notice is that Jesus is the initiator.

Jesus is the initiator.

John 9:1 NIV

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth

- Jesus sees people, and He sees people who other people don't see. He is not blind to us nor to our sufferings. In this passage, we see Jesus initiating time after time, from healing the man, to telling him what to do, to returning to find the man. Jesus works specifically and on purpose, in this case on a Sabbath. He made mud (which the Jew considered "work" and was forbidden on the Sabbath) to make a point to the religious authorities that they had twisted the Sabbath far beyond what it was intended by God. Jesus's timing and method fit with His perfect plan—trust that He is working and will do so at the right time. Jesus is not passive and continues to pursue and initiate with those who are His.

Jesus is the authority.

- People asked Jesus questions all the time. They did this not just to know His opinion but because His teaching was illuminating, insightful, and authoritative. In this case, they asked Jesus a theological question about the origin of this man's disability.
- The common thought was that if someone had a hardship or a difficulty in their life, it was because of sin, a specific sin they committed. In the case of someone born with blindness, or a disability, perhaps this was a punishment for the sins of a parent. So they asked the question of Jesus with this assumption in mind.

John 9:2 NIV

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

- Jesus did not frame His answer with, "well . . . I will give you what could be happening or this is what I think is happening." He responded with authority.

John 9:3 NIV

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

- There is a ton to unpack in this verse, but I am going to highlight just two things.
 - One, specific sins in the past don't always correlate with specific suffering in the present. Sometimes this is the case, like lying to someone will cause you not to be trusted, etc. However, we must be wary of thinking that we must know the specific cause for specific suffering. We do live in a fallen world.
 - Two, we ask the wrong question when it comes to pain and suffering. We ask "Why?" versus asking "What for?" We spend so much time, energy, and effort looking for the cause of pain and suffering rather than asking for the purpose of the pain and suffering. We want to focus on the cause, and God wants us to focus on the purpose.
 - The ultimate purpose of pain and suffering is that the "works of God might be displayed," so that God's ultimate good would be accomplished and obtained. So in our suffering, we should ask God to do His work in us and through us. Doing so helps us understand suffering in view of the glory of God. Some suffering we will understand now, and we will understand it fully in eternity. This is what is being communicated by Romans 8:18, 2 Cor. 4:17-18, and many other verses.

Rom 8:18 ESV

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Cor 4:17-18 NIV

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- So fix your eyes not on the cause of suffering or the suffering itself, but on the purpose and reward of our troubles. They may be fixed here, or they may not. But they will all be made right in the end. The now is temporary, and the end is eternal.

Jesus is the light of the world.

John 9:5

"I am the light of the world."

- Light brings life, clarity, and direction. By the light of Jesus, we can see everything else clearly. In Him is light, and from Him, all things have their identity and being and life. While He was here, He worked as the light. Now that light continues to do His work through us by His Spirit. He is not "a" light pointing the way to God but "the" light. He is God and the source of all light.

Jesus is the healer.

John 9:6-7

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

- All healing comes from God, whether by natural or supernatural means. God uses medicine, and God uses miracles. God uses physicians, and God uses prayer. Sometimes healing is quick, sometimes slow, and sometimes not at all. But know that all will be fixed permanently in eternity.
- After this healing, there is conversion and confrontation about what happened and who Jesus is. Is He a sinner, or is He the Son of God? This man could not deny what had happened to him. "I was blind, and now I see!"
- In the conversation that was captured, the rationale given for the identity of Jesus was that God hears Him because only God could heal those born blind (Isa. 35:5).

Jesus is the one the Father hears.

John 9:31-33

We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

- God the Father indeed "hears" Jesus. What was done could have only been done by the power of God. And those who have access to the power of God are those who are right with God by believing and following His will. Jesus has righteousness within Him and also did righteous things according to the will of the Father, and the Father did His will through the Son. The miracles were "signs" that pointed to the identity of the Son, the one whom the Father hears, and the one who is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God.
- Because of this man's testimony and stance on who Jesus was (a righteous man and a prophet), the religious leaders threw him out of the synagogue. After the man had gone through all this, Jesus found him again. The point of the miracle was not that he would see but that he would believe.

Jesus is the one to be believed.

John 9:35-38a NIV

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." 38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe."

- The title "Son of Man" comes from Daniel 7, and is the title for the Messiah. So Jesus was asking him, do you believe that the one who did this is the Messiah? The guy was like, "Yes, and who is He?" And Jesus said, "it is me." And this man believed. Healing and miracles are signs that point to the identity of Jesus so that we will believe and put our faith in and receive new life from and follow Jesus. In recording this, John said that this one is the one we are to

believe. Not just that He is a righteous person, an authoritative teacher, a prophet, or a miracle worker, but that He is the Son of God, the Christ, and to show us who He is so we can believe in Him.

- Not only should Jesus be believed in, but He should also be worshiped as God.

Jesus is the one to be worshiped.

John 9:38 NIV

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

- Jesus did not stop this man from worshiping Him (unlike every angel, godly person, or thing in the Bible). This fact alone—that Jesus allowed someone to worship Him—is very strong evidence of who Jesus is. He is not only the Savior, but God, and the only one whom it is right to worship and who is worthy of worship.

Conclusion

- This story moves from blindness to believing, from sight to insight, from unknowing to worshiping. And this story starts with blindness and ends with blindness.

John 9:39-41

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." 40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" 41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

- Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." The strange thing is that those who were blind could see this light, and those who claimed to see, could not. There are all kinds of blindness in this world, from physical blindness to spiritual blindness. Physical blindness is temporary. Spiritual blindness is more serious, and it is eternal. Jesus demonstrated who He was by physical healing, and the one who was blind saw, believed, and worshiped the true light, while those who claimed to see remained blind.
- Jesus is the initiator, the authority, the light of the world, the healer, the one the Father hears, the one to be believed, the one to be worshiped. Do you see? Will you believe? Will you worship Jesus, the Christ, the Light of the World?