

33. Jesus Healed a Blind Man

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to show from the Scriptures that Jesus is God. The Scriptures speak with authority and those who hear the Word of God then have to choose whether they will accept the Word or reject the Word. We want to help our children realize that their own opinions do not carry any authority but the Word of God has authority. In our topic today, we are going to see that Jesus opened the eyes of a blind man and that this was done as a sign to the Jews.

Jesus was walking with the disciples. While they were walking Jesus saw a blind man. This man had been blind since His birth. John 9:1-5 says, “Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’” Jesus must have commented that this man had been blind from birth because the disciples asked the question, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” The disciples saw the physical problem of this man as a topic of conversation. Jesus saw his blindness from a much different viewpoint.

It was common among the Jews of that day to think that physical disabilities and other forms of suffering were the result of sin. As a result, that was why the disciples asked the question. Since he had been born blind, the disciples had concluded that the man was either blind because of his own sin or because of some sin in the lives of the parents. Their question did not focus on the need of the man at all. Instead, it was only a question about whose sin had caused the blindness. In His answer, Jesus made it clear that this blindness was not the result of sin. Instead, this blindness was for the glory of God. Jesus said this blindness was so that the works of God could be revealed in Him. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Jesus wanted to show the disciples the importance of doing all things for the glory of God. This is a key lesson that we want to teach by our example.

Jesus then added, “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Here, we see that Jesus fully understood His purpose while He was here on this earth. He was to do the works that God had given Him to do. In the same way, each of us as Christians have been given a purpose in life and the Lord has a ministry for each of us. 1 Corinthians 15:58 says, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” Our lives will have true meaning as we carry out the work that the Lord has created us to do on this earth.

We see that the time is coming when no man can work. That is the reason why we want to carry out the work of the Lord while we have the opportunity. Galatians 5:13 says, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” We are to serve one another in love while we have the opportunity. Jesus said

that the night is coming. Once the night comes, there will be no more opportunity to do the work of the Lord on this earth.

Jesus also said that as long as He was in the world that He is the Light of the world. John 8:12 says, “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” Christ knew His purpose was to be the Light of the world. We also see that He told us as Christians to be lights in the world. Matthew 5:16 says, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Then, Philippians 2:14-16 adds, “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.” We see that now God has called us to be lights in the world.

Jesus used the opportunity that He had to give both physical and spiritual light to the blind man. We see, in these verses, how Jesus gave physical light to the man. John 9:6-7 says, “When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.” Then, we see in John 9:35-38 how Jesus gave spiritual light to the man. Those verses say, “Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of God?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’ Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” Jesus met His need for both physical light and spiritual light.

Jesus healed this particular blind man in a rather unusual way. We see that Jesus spit on the ground. Then, Jesus mixed His spit with the dirt to make mud or clay. Next, Jesus took the mud and put it on the eyes of the blind man. Last, Jesus gave the man a very specific instruction. Jesus told the man to go and wash off the mud in the pool of Siloam. The meaning of the name of the pool was very appropriate because of the instruction that Jesus gave to the man. We see that Siloam means *Sent*. Jesus sent this man to the pool of Siloam with the instruction that he should wash off the mud in that particular pool. This was the pool from which a pitcher of water was taken for the pouring ceremony at the Feast of Tabernacles. When they brought the water through the Watergate into the temple, the people would quote Isaiah 12:3 which says, “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” This man would receive the salvation that Jesus offered when Jesus talked to the man later that day.

The man was obedient to the instructions of Jesus and received physical sight. He went. He washed. He came back seeing. This man realized that his life had been changed and transformed. In that day, there was no work that could be done by people with severe physical disabilities. Mark 10:46 tells us what blind Bartimaeus had to do in order to survive. That verse says, “Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.” This blind man had probably also been begging just before Jesus came and put the mud on his eyes. We do not know how he got to the

Pool of Siloam since he was blind. He may have had to ask someone to lead him to that pool. However he managed to get there, we see that he followed the instructions of Jesus and washed the mud from his eyes. He immediately received his physical sight.

Suddenly, he could see for the first time in his life. As he came back to the place where Jesus had put the mud on his eyes, he saw the buildings, the people and everything else that he passed. That must have been an amazing walk for him as he could suddenly see all of the things that he had only known in the past by feel. We also see that there was a reaction throughout the neighborhood when he returned. John 9:8-9 says, “Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, ‘Is not this he who sat and begged?’ Some said, ‘This is he.’ Others *said*, ‘He is like him.’ He said, ‘I am *he*.’” The whole neighborhood reacted.

People are always curious when they see something unusual happen. That was what happened that day as this man came walking back. The neighbors immediately started talking among themselves. Many of the neighbors had probably known this man from the time he was born. Others had met him sometime as he was growing up. As a result, the people all had the same question. They asked one another, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” This question showed that this man had survived throughout his adult life by begging. Everyone in the neighborhood knew him and knew that he had been blind. As a result, their question was whether or not this was actually the man who had begged for years in their neighborhood.

The people of the neighborhood quickly formed two opinions. Some said it was the man who had been born blind. Other just thought that he looked like the man who had been born blind. This is an illustration of the fact that people are very quick to form opinions without ever trying to find out the truth. The man heard the people of the neighborhood talking and gave the answer to their questions to one another and the statement of their opinions by saying, “I am *he*.” Suddenly, the people of the neighborhood had to deal with the reality of the fact that a man who had been born blind could now see. His own parents were unwilling to say how their son had been healed. John 9:20-22 says, “His parents answered them and said, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that* He *was* Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.” The neighbors now had to decide whether they were going to believe that Jesus came from the Father or whether they were going to follow the example of the parents and act out of fear.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children realize that many people are unwilling to publicly repent of their sin of unbelief and place their faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus because of fear of people. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children by example the importance of praying for those controlled by fear.