

***“A Blind Man Sees the Light of the World”***

**John 9:1-12**

**Sermon Date: December 1st, 2019**

**Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon**

**Prayer**

As you begin your study this week, spend some time thanking the Lord for the mercy and grace that He shows in miraculously giving sight to the spiritually blind. Praise Him for how He opened your eyes to see the truth of the gospel and the beauty of His glory it displays. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to help your eyes see with increased clarity as you consider the truths of our text this week. As you pray, consider the words of the following prayer taken from Everyday Prayers by Scotty Smith.

*“Dear Jesus…I would still be blind to what alone brings me peace if you hadn’t opened my eyes to see my need of you and your death for me. The gospel would still remain hidden from my eyes unless you had given me sight to behold you as the Lamb of God who takes away my sin. I can’t and I won’t sneer at a single Pharisee, Sadducee, priest, teacher of the law, or anyone else who tried to trick or trap you... I am just as worthy of judgment as they.*

*How I long for the day when I will no longer even be tempted to look for peace, for shalom, anywhere else but in you, Jesus. I yearn for the day when I will see you as you are and I will be made like you. This is my great hope. Until that day, keep healing the eyes of my heart of all spiritual myopia… or anything else that keeps me from seeing the magnificence of your glory and the full measure of your grace. I pray in your tenacious and tender name. Amen.”*

**Scripture**

**John 9:1–12 – (English Standard Version)**

***1*** *As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.* ***2*** *And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”* ***3*** *Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.* ***4*** *We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.* ***5*** *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”* ***6*** *Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud* ***7*** *and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.*

***8*** *The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”* ***9*** *Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”* ***10*** *So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”* ***11*** *He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.”* ***12*** *They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”*

**Handling the Word**

1. In John 20:30-31, John tells us that his purpose in documenting Jesus’ signs was “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” Our text this week contains the sixth sign (out of seven) he chose to record in order to fulfill that purpose. But before we get to the sixth sign, use the breakdown below to briefly summarize each of the first five signs John recorded and what they teach us about who Jesus is.

Sign 1 (2:1-11) –

Sign 2 (4:46-54) –

Sign 3 (5:1-15) –

Sign 4 (6:5-13) –

Sign 5 (6:16-21) –

**Understanding and Applying**

1. Notice at the onset of our passage that while the blind man was unable to see Jesus when He passed by, Jesus did not pass by the man without taking notice of him (v. 1). As R Kent Hughes wrote, *“Jesus evidently fixed his gaze upon the poor man.”* Why is it such good news that Jesus sees, notices, and fixes His gaze upon those who are unable to see Him, spiritually speaking? How does this truth impact the way you think about evangelism, the way you pray for people, and the way you view your own salvation?
2. Upon encountering the blind man, the disciples who were with Jesus immediately assumed that his blindness came as a consequence for either his own sin or the sin of his parents (v. 2). They believed there was a direct correlation between personal sin and personal suffering. While sin is the overarching cause of all human suffering, and while there are most certainly times when our sufferings are the direct consequence of our sin (Hebrews 12:7-11), why is it wrong to assume that all personal affliction or suffering is the direct result of personal sin? How can we, and those with whom we interact, be negatively impacted when we make this assumption?
3. In verse 3, Jesus refutes the disciples’ assumption regarding the cause of the man’s blindness by providing the true reason for the man’s suffering. Using verse 3, as well as the passages listed below, what are other reasons God has for personal suffering outside of being the direct consequence of personal sin? Provide any examples of how you have seen these play out in your own life.

John 9:3 –

Romans 5:3-4 –

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 –

Galatians 4:13 –

James 1:2-4 –

1 Peter 1:6-7 –

1. After providing an important explanation to the disciples in verse 3, Jesus then provides them with a crucial command in verse 4: “we must work the works of him who sent me.” Notice that Jesus says, “we must” rather than simply “I must” be about the work of the Father. In other words, the disciples were included in the command to be busy about accomplishing the Father’s work. Do you think of yourself as being part of that “we”? Why or why not? What are some of the Father’s works He has prepared for us and left us here to do (Ephesians 2:10)?
2. Not only are all of God’s people invited to be involved in the Father’s work, Jesus said that we “must” be doing so (v.4). The language Jesus uses here implies a sense of duty or obligation on the part of the those who are His. Do you struggle with the idea that there are things we “must” do, that we have duties and obligations, as followers of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?
3. Furthermore, Jesus tells us that we should be busy about doing the works of the Father “while it is day, [because] night is coming when no one can work” (v 4). Since the time we have to serve the Lord on this earth is relatively short (“while it is still day”), and will come to an end (“night is coming when no one can work”), there should be a sense of urgency and intentionality behind all that we do (also refer to Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:36-51). Regarding this verse, John Calvin wrote, *“when we see that a short time of life is allotted to us, we should be ashamed of lazing in idleness.”* In what ways do you feel as though you are living with a sense of urgency and intentionality in serving the Lord? In what ways do you feel as though you may be “lazing in idleness”?
4. Since we know that Jesus could have simply healed the man’s eyes by the word of His mouth, it seems a little strange, or at least unexpected, that He chose to go about it the way that He did in verses 6-7. What are other ways throughout the Bible that we see God using what seems strange and unexpected to us in order to accomplish His purposes? What are some ways you have seen God work through unexpected means and methods in your life?
5. After this healing, the people around the blind man wanted to know exactly how his eyes had been opened (verses 8-12). It was apparent that he had been dramatically changed, and they wanted to know what happened. The man’s story of how he was healed was short and to the point in verse 11, but oh how sweet a story it was: He who had been blind was now able to see because of Jesus’ amazing grace. Why is every story of the Lord opening the eyes of the spiritually blind so sweet? Why is there no need to embellish our stories or attempt to make them more extraordinary from a human perspective?
6. Make a list of all the ways this man’s blindness illustrates all of mankind’s spiritual condition. Make a list of all the ways Jesus’ interactions with Him illustrates His saving work in people’s lives. Why is the scene in John 9:1-12 such a fitting illustration of these things?
7. What glorious truth about Jesus or the gospel stands out to you the most from these verses? Why do you think this particular truth grabs your attention?

*“Human nature is a platform for the manifestation of divine work. The more in need you are, dear friend, the more room there is for God’s mercy to operate upon you.”*

*C.H. Spurgeon*