

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bible with me to John 9

John has provided for us a detailed account of one of Jesus' most familiar signs that He performed.

And of course we are talking about Jesus healing of this anonymous blind man outside the temple.

And what makes this sign stand out for many that are familiar with the gospel is that we get wrapped up in the methodology of the miracle.

Jesus making a mud pie with His spit and rubbing it in the eyes of the blind man.

However, I pointed out last week that the focus should not be on the methodology – the focus on this event should be on Jesus

Why did Jesus heal this particular blind man?

-To fulfill prophecy – it was an announcement to the world that He is the Messiah as the healing of the blind was a miracle reserved for the Messiah. The works of God were going to be revealed through this blind man.

God was not punishing this man because of sin in his life; rather, He had a redemptive purpose for his suffering.

-He also did to show this paradox – that a man who was physically blind could spiritually see, while those who could physically see were actually suffering from spiritual blindness.

In our study this morning, we are going to see the reaction of the spiritually blind to the redemptive work that Jesus did on this blind man.

But most importantly, we are going to see how the blind man responds to his encounter with Jesus.

Let's pray...

So we left off last week in verse 7 – Jesus had smeared the mud/spit pie in the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in the pools of Siloam.

And the blind man went to the pools, washed and was able to see.

**[Jhn 9:8-41 NKJV] 8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" 9 Some said, "This is he." Others [said], "He is like him." He said, "I am [he]." 10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"**

So, in the first seven verse, Jesus's disciples had asked Jesus a question regarding the blind man (vs)

"Rabbi – why is this man blind, whose fault is it, his or his parents"

They wanted to get into a theological debate with Jesus – but Jesus had compassion on Him and actually did something about it.

Here we have another group of people –

This group was very familiar with the blind man.

They lived next door to him

They saw him grow up

They were used to seeing this man stumble his way through the street every morning on his way to the temple.

They were used to seeing this man sitting and begging

But now, something is different about this man.

He is no longer doing the things that previously he had done

He is no longer sitting and begging

He is no longer stumbling – bumping into everyone in the street

He is skipping, he is dancing

**His life is drastically different**

So they are looking at each other and saying – either it's him or he has a twin brother that we didn't know about.

Church, I think there is very important spiritual truth for us here –

If we have miraculously received spiritual sight through belief in Jesus Christ, people will notice.

Turn with me to Ephesians 4

**[Eph 4:17-19 NKJV] 17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

I had you make a note of – should no longer walk

You see, there is a way of life that we once lived, that we are to no longer live.

Previously we lived a certain way -

He used to be selfish – now, he is selfless and generous

He used to speak lies, now he speaks truth

She used to be angry, now she is at peace

People who knew us before our encounter with Jesus, should now look at our lives and say, “Is this not the man / is this not the woman who used to live in darkness?”

What changed???

**11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." 12 Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."**

There is a few things I want to point out here.

The first thing is that the blind man never saw Jesus

Yes, verse 7 states that after he rinsed his eyes out that he saw and came back – but the thing is that Jesus was not there anymore.

All he knows is that a Man called Jesus gave him instructions – btw – the name Jesus, Yeshua it was a common name during this time.

The next thing I want us to notice is that the man gives his testimony – and he cuts to the chase.

A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight.

That's his testimony.

You see church, our testimony is not about how bad we were

Our testimony is not about us and all the things we did

It's about God and about glorifying God – and that is exactly what this man did

Unfortunately, many times we complicate our testimonies, we exaggerate our testimony, we make it longer and longer because we want it to be about ourselves.

Church, we must be able to give our testimony –

So when some comes up to us at work or at the store and asks, “How were your eyes open? – What happened to you?”

We will have an answer for them – our testimony

- Our testimony should be no longer than 5 minutes
- Get a sheet of paper, draw three squares on the sheet of paper.
- Life before Jesus, your encounter with Jesus – how did Jesus find you – Jesus found the blind man – the blind man didn't go looking for Jesus, how is Jesus working in your life right now (this box is always changing).
- The thing that separates who you were from who you are right now – “Jesus”

So after giving his testimony to the neighbors – they ask him where this Jesus is – and he doesn't know –

So get this, instead of celebrating the fact that he has been healed – they still want their questions answered – they are like the disciples.

They are not satisfied with the man's testimony –

Nobody is excited that he can see.

They show no compassion.

### **13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.**

Why would you do that to your friend?

They were more concerned with having their question answered that they took him to the most religious people.

**14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15**

**Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.**

A few weeks ago, when we were going through John 5 –

We saw that Jesus healed the lame man by the pools in Bethesda.

And back then, the religious rulers – they also got upset not only because Jesus healed on the Sabbath – but also because He told the man to take up your bed and walk.

In their eyes, Jesus had violated the oral traditions of the Jews.

Now, they are upset because Jesus spit – which was a violation of their oral traditions.

Not only did Jesus spit – He also made the clay (mud) – which is another violation of their oral traditions.

Here's the dilemma facing the Pharisees:

In front of them stands a man who'd been born blind who now sees.

But he got his sight from a man who broke their oral traditions.

In their mind – anyone who is sent from God would keep their traditions.

So, weighing the evidence, some of them decide Jesus can't be legit because He breaks their rules.

Others begin to question if a miracle actually took place.

So they are having a debate among themselves – yet they are overlooking the work of God in this man's life.

**17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." 18 But the Jews **did not believe** concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.**

These religious rulers - because they refused to accept Jesus, they refused to accept the reality of this miracle.



You know why?

Because they realized if they admitted the miracle, it would mean they had to recognize Jesus had been sent from God.

Church, the same thing happens today –

You give your testimony to someone you love – sometimes we will be rejected.

And those that reject your testimony – they will try to explain it away.

To them, Jesus is something that they cannot tolerate – because it makes them morally and spiritually responsible.

We don't believe that Jesus healed you – we are going to call your parents.

**19 And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then 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 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."**

They bring in the parents and ask them three questions.

1. Is this your son?
2. Was he really, really born blind?
3. How does he see now?

Their response –

That is our son and yes – he was born blind

But notice that they don't provide an answer to the third question.

We do not know – ask him – he's a grown man – let him answer you.

The parents throw the son under the bus –

Thanks mom, thanks dad!

Think about this –

As a parent, if you had a son or daughter who had been blind from birth came home one day, seeing – don't you think that you would have asked question?

No one probably, apart from the man himself, celebrated this healing more than his parents.

No one probably asked more questions than his parents, and no one has probably heard his testimony about Jesus more than his parents.

So why did they do this?

They didn't do this out of lack of knowledge

They did this out fear of man.

They feared man more than they feared God

And if we are honest – brothers and sisters, if we are really honest – it is the same in each one of our lives.

**22 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. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."**

They knew that the answer to the question of “how does he see now” was Jesus.

But, out of fear of what that the confession might bring, they withheld that truth.

Church,

It is easy to talk to others about football or the newest restaurant in town or the latest movie or what is going on in the world right now.

But, sometimes speaking the truth about Jesus is difficult because we fear what might happen if we do so.

We fear that people will not talk to us, that people will make fun of us or won't like us.

So we fail to tell others about Jesus – just like the parents of the blind man.

**24 So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."**

Notice the hypocrisy in this statement by the Pharisees

They're satisfied with giving glory to God for this man's healing on the Sabbath.

Which means, that they're 100% okay with God working on the Sabbath because, He's Lord of the Sabbath.

Jesus being able to give sight to the blind on the Sabbath should therefore reveal that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath / He is God in the flesh.

However, they don't want to accept the fact that Jesus is God, proving their spiritual blindness.

**25 He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner [or not] I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."**

"I don't know anything about the character of this Man. All I can speak on is what He's done in my life. I was once blind, and all I could ever see was darkness. But, now I can see because of Him."

Church – verse 25 is the testimony of the believer in 12 words –

What happened to you?

**One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."**

**26 Then they said to him again, "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? Do you also want to become His disciples?"** The man

senses that the Pharisees – they want to talk this thing to death, they want to wear him down, they want him to change his opinion about Jesus and give in to their opinion of Jesus.

They want him to betray Jesus.

He won't betray the truth he's come to know & refuses to play along.

He says, "I already told you what happened, but you didn't listen."

They'd heard his words but hadn't listened to the message.

Why didn't they listen?

Because they had already decided to reject Jesus, nothing he said would make any difference.

So what would be the point in repeating it – unless the evidence had convinced them & they were not ready to commit to Jesus.

**28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 "We know that God spoke to Moses; [as for] this [fellow], we do not know where He is from."**

The Pharisees claimed to be disciples of Moses because they know that God has spoken to Moses.

How do they know that God has spoken to Moses?

They know this because the Scriptures bear witness to the fact that God has spoken to Moses.

It is ironic and tragic – if they truly knew the scriptures, they would have known that Jesus is the Son of God, they would have known that Jesus is the Prophet that Moses spoke about.

However, their uncertainty about Jesus revealed that they were spiritually blind.

**30 The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! 31 "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. 32 "Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. 33 "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."**

The man's logic here is flawless.

"Jesus healed me in a way unheard of in all our history as the people of God.

Both scripturally & logically, there's only one conclusion – He's from God.

If you guys can't see that, then you are more blind than I ever was!"

**34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they **cast him out.****

The religious rulers respond to the man's logic by picking up the same accusations that the disciples had at the beginning of the chapter.

You were born blind because of your sin or because of something your parents did – you are a sinner –

How could a man born in sin teach the righteous Pharisees?

They try to discredit his testimony by pointing to his past.

These are personal attacks – they know they have lost the argument and just like they did against Jesus, they resort to name calling.

I had you make a note – that they cast him out.

They excommunicated him.

He can no longer attend the synagogue

He can no longer conduct business

He became an outcast

**35 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?"**

Pause right here

Please don't miss the intentional language John uses here.

Jesus found this man.

He intentionally sought him out.

The Father and the Son were never lost.

We are the ones lost, and it is God who finds us.

So, Jesus heard this man was cast out, he finds him, then He asked the man a pivotal question, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

**36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"**

The man's responds here with a question of his own – and the question reveals that either he believes that Jesus possesses a knowledge of who the Son of God is or that Jesus Himself is the Son of God

**37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." 38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.**

Up until this point, this man had yet to see his healer face to face.

But now, Jesus is saying, "I am the one who has given you sight to see. I am the one who has found you. The one who is speaking to you now is the eternal ruler. I am the Son of Man, who was sent from the Father to redeem you from your sins."

How did the man respond?



Did he reach down to pick up stones like the Pharisees did a few weeks ago?

No, he worshipped Jesus

This word for worship means to fall prostrate before someone's feet in reverence and awe.

This man has already acknowledged the fact that Jesus must be from God. But, now he's taking this understanding a step further. He's giving to Jesus the reverence and awe that is only acceptable for God. And Jesus is allowing him to!

Which is yet another claim to His deity!

In verse 34 this man was cast out of the synagogue. He had no place to worship the Lord. But, what does Jesus do? He finds him and reveals himself to him. And now the man is able to worship the Lord.

**39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."**

The purpose of Jesus, the light of the world, coming into the world is to reveal Himself to the world and expose the darkness of the world.

On one hand He gives life to those in need.

On the other hand He reveals sin and blindness. Some who could not see (spiritually) will receive sight through belief.

While other will see the truth and will become blind through unbelief.

**40 Then [some] of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.**

The problem with the Pharisees and with many in the world today is one of self deception.

This is the great peril the lost are in – they stand in danger of hell simply because they refuse to admit that they're in need of help.

Are we blind also???? – the Pharisees think there is nothing wrong with them.

But Jesus says

If you were blind – meaning, if they acknowledged their blindness - and put their faith and trust in Jesus, they will receive sight and eternal life.

However, if they are self-deceived and claim that they see, they boast in their own works and reject Jesus – then their guilt remains.

There is a great difference between the one who is blind and knows it, and the one who simply shuts his eyes.

The good news -

The God who opened the eyes of this blind man – can open our eyes too.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Church,

As we leave here today –

I want to remind you that we have a story

And it is God's story in each of us.

It is the story of His grace and His faithfulness – being written out daily in our lives.

May we share that story with those around us to bring them to the cross of Jesus Christ.

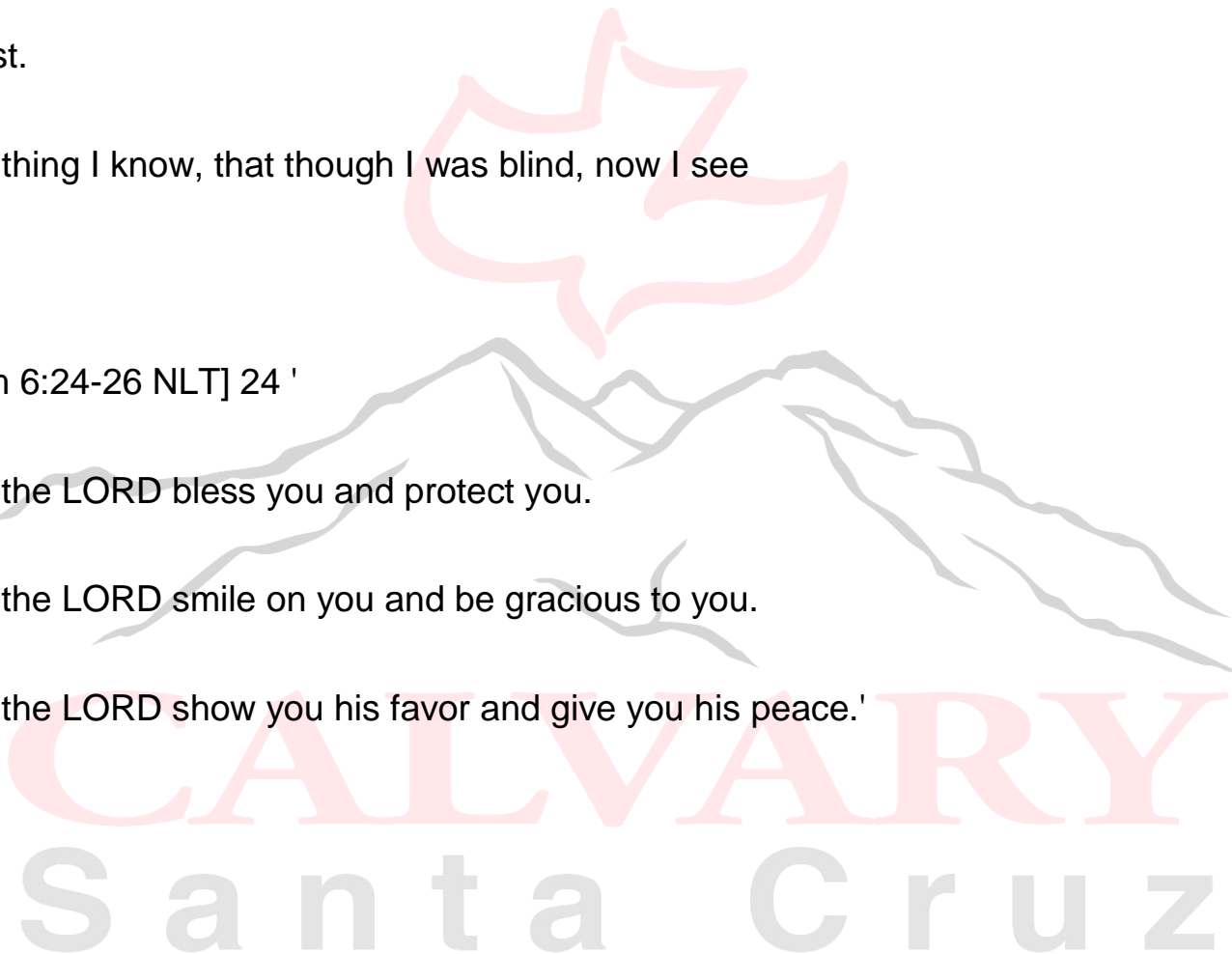
One thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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