

**Sermon Series:** Book of John

**Sermon title:** Healing of a Man Born Blind.

**Scripture reading:** John 9

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

October 4, 2019

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Well, we've been studying the book of John over the past 6 weeks and in particular we are looking at the signs that Jesus performs in John. They're not just miracles to show off, but they are signs. And signs point to something.

### **What do they point us to?**

**John 1:14** says this, "We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

So, everyone is supposed to see Jesus' glory.

But oddly enough, many see the signs that he does and don't see glory.

Some see a miracle man but not the Son of Man.

Some see a healer but not a Savior.

Some see a King but not the kind of King who will die for them.

They see...but they don't see!

Today, we want to take a look at this miraculous healing of a man who was born blind. He's never seen before. Ever.

Can you imagine what it would be like to have never seen? It's one thing to lose your sight. That would be bad enough, but at least you would be able to picture things in your mind.

This man has never seen.

Turn to John 9. I'll read verses 1-7

**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.

## **I. THE WORKS OF GOD DISPLAYED.**

The disciples sound like they believe in karma. They want to know who sinned to cause this man's blindness.

This healing is the other bookend of a long section in John that began with a similar healing in John 5.

Do you remember? The healing of the lame man. He was lame for 38 years. It happened at the pool of Bethesda and this one involves the pool of Siloam. Similar a bit.

Jesus says to the man in **John 5**, "Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."

Maybe it was because of this, but it was likely because many in that day assumed that an illness you had was caused by something you'd done. As we will see in this passage...sometimes it is...sometimes it's not.

### **What was the reason for the man's blindness?**

**3** Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

\*We might need to pause and address something just a bit. Is this fair? Is God being cruel by making this man blind from birth....only to use him as some sort of prop for a miracle to '*display his works and his glory*'?

I'll give a few responses to this kind of question.

1. God is the creator of all things and all people. He doesn't have to create anyone or allow anyone to have life and breath. Every life is a gift from him. So, he owes no man anything.
2. There will be many who never see, walk, hear and who suffer from countless disabilities – who will one day be whole and live for trillions of years in the heavenly city. Yet, there will be many millions of people who in this life see, run marathons, hear perfectly and live a long and healthy life...enjoying cars and boats and plants and beaches.....who will suffer for eternity without God in hell. There will be billionaire tycoons who never see and the folks from the Home of Loving Faithfulness will see their King face to face.

Jesus initiates the healing of this man. He doesn't ask for healing. Jesus heals him to display the works of God. And this sign is pointing us to a deeper reality.

## **II. THE WORKS OF GOD EXPLAINED.**

This healing of the man born blind is so amazing that people can't believe it. So, in verses 8-34 what we see is everybody trying to figure out and investigate what happened.

It's quite humorous that the man has to explain 3 times how he was healed; Verses 11, 15, 27.

The neighbors want to know. He's taken to the Pharisees...the keepers of the spiritual keys....and they want to know. The man just keeps explaining to everyone simply....*"Um, the man Jesus made mud and put it on my eyes and said to wash in the pool of Siloam and I did it and now I see."*

And they keep pressing him...till he gives this beautiful statement in **verse 25**, "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

The Pharisees just can't accept what has happened. They don't see how Jesus could do something like this because he doesn't even keep the Sabbath. They revile the man and 'kick him out' it says... probably of the Synagogue.

But this work of God displayed in the healing points to a deeper reality....this work of God is explained for us in **verses 35-41**.

**35** Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" **36** He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" **37** Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." **38** He said,

"Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. **39** Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." **40** Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" **41** Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

This story is about something much more serious than physical blindness.

Notice the key words in this chapter that helps explain the works of God.

Blind from birth.

Sin.

Day.

Night.

Light of the world.

Anointing.

Washing.

Seeing.

Son of Man.

Believe.

Worship.

Judgement.

No sin.

Sin remains.

## **What's going on here?**

A man who is blind from birth....now sees because of Jesus. He not only sees physically but also sees spiritually. He believes. He worships.

The Pharisees see physically. They think they see spiritually. But they are as blind as bats! They don't believe. They don't worship.

There is a kind of seeing that doesn't see. A person can see with their eyes and still be blind. They don't see with the eyes of their heart.

Jesus does this work of God, this sign, to display the works of God....but this sign points to the deeper and more serious work that Jesus is doing...which is opening the spiritual eyes of the spiritually blind. This is the true work of God!

Like this man...we are all born blind, spiritually blind and dead spiritually. We are alive and see physically but not spiritually.

We need someone to heal us of blindness and someone to remove the darkness.

Jesus is the light of the world.

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ” **John 1:4-5**

### **John 3:16-21**

**16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

This great miracle of giving sight to the man born blind is a display of the the great work of God accomplished through Jesus Christ; the opening of our spiritual eyes and taking away our sin.

And this is a message the world needs to hear.



### III. THE WORKS OF GOD PROCLAIMED.

Take a look at **verse 4** again.

**"4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work."**

Who is the we here? Jesus, God the Son and God the Father? No, it means Jesus and the disciples.

This night that is coming that Jesus is talking about is the cross. There will be a brief time coming when Jesus will be betrayed, beaten and crucified. It will be a dark time.

But after the Resurrection...the disciples are told to GO! Go and do what? Work!

#### **What kind of work are they to do?**

Spread light. Be light bearers.

Share the good news.

Tell people who the light of the world is.

They are to be spiritual optometrists.

Why?

Cause there is another night coming...and the work will be over.

**We must work the works of him who sent us folks..while it is day. Night is coming for millions upon millions.**

This is our task as believers.

## **2 Corinthians 4:1-7**

**1** Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. **2** But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. **3** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4** In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **7** But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

## **1 Peter 2:9**

**9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**Jesus, the light, shines in the darkness...opening the eyes of the spiritually blind and he calls his disciples to join him in blinder removal– through the proclamation of the gospel.**

May God grant us the grace to obey him in a radical self-sacrificing life where we are fully devoted to the work that God is doing in the world....giving sight to the blind!

Our message is simple, **"I was blind, but now I see. Can I tell you how you can see?"**