

Born Blind

John 9

This evening I want to take us to a story of Jesus healing a man born blind. The text that we are going to be looking at is John 9. Jesus is alluding the religious leaders who desired to stone Him on account of Him declaring Himself to be the great "I Am." But as Jesus is leaving the temple, he comes across this blind beggar who had been blind since birth and takes time to heal this man and teach His disciples.

Here follows the account: Read John 9

I have divided the text into three parts so that we may better understand it and apply to our lives.

- 1. God's Purpose Is Revealed**
- 2. God's Children Are Sent**
- 3. God's Children Are Rescued**

1. God's Purpose Is Revealed

The disciples raise the question to Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind. Their question is asked in such a way as to leave only two outcomes – either the man sinned or his parents did. This actually reveals the false thinking and teaching of the day that defects, diseases and disabilities were the result of sinful lifestyles. We actually see this in many places of the Scripture.

- Miriam receives leprosy from falsely accusing Moses (Numbers 12:10).
- Gehazi receives leprosy from disobeying Elisha (2 Kings 5:27).
- Zechariah becomes mute because he doesn't believe the angel Gabriel's words (Luke 1:20).
- At least 4 examples of blindness as punishment
 - o Gen. 19:11 – Sodomites
 - o 2 Kings 6:18 – Syrian Army
 - o Acts 13:11 – Elymas the magician
 - o Acts 9:1-18 – Saul is blinded by the Lord on his way to Damascus.

With this kind of thinking, however, the Pharisees and the people of Israel greatly misunderstood and misapplied God's desire for them to care for the needy and give to the poor. This would possibly address the reason this blind beggar was standing at the gates of the temple rather than being within it. If the Pharisees were viewing this defect as a result of some great sin in this man's life, then as an effect he was not allowed to enter into the temple to worship God. He couldn't! He was clearly a sinner by their standards. Jesus completely disregards this type of thinking for he calls the lame and the blind to approach Him when He is the temple for healing (Mat. 21:14).

Praise God this is not how he treats His children. We are not kept from entering His presence due to our defects, our diseases and disabilities – for we are drowning in many – but He accepts us on the basis of Christ perfection and His righteousness.

We should also be very careful in casting judgement on one another for the cause of certain trials and sufferings that may befall us, lest we side with JOB's immoral friends who pointed him to falsehood. Be wary to not place yourself on God's throne as the just judge.

The disciples' question then, leaves great opportunity for Jesus to once again teach His disciples truth and point them to the glory of the Father Who sent Him. The answer is "neither" but rather this man was born blind so that the "works of God" might be made known to all.

"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (Vv. 4-5)

Here Jesus brings to light the purpose of this man's blindness and teaches His disciples that they too must be ready for the mission that He is about to give them. Jesus takes this man's physical blindness and uses it as an application for the world's spiritual blindness.

Adam was created in perfection. God said that His creation was good and God had communion with man. Adam was created to "see" God. He was not blinded from truth for Adam had Truth with him in the garden. However, Adam sinned and in so doing brought upon himself and all those who would be born after him a "spiritual blindness."

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— Rom. 5:12

Because of sin, blindness has come upon all. We too, like this poor blind beggar have been born blind. The Psalmist says that he was conceived in sin and that truly, the cancer of this curse has been spread to all. Therefore, all are blind and we need to have our eyes opened to truth. For this reason, God sent His only begotten Son into the world as a light for men. This was done, so that the works of God might be displayed in His glorious power to redeem man from hell and give sight to the blind.

In this passage of John 9, one could even argue the reason for why God allowed sin to enter the world. The answer, "So that the works of God might be displayed in Jesus Christ." He goes beyond making a perfect world and keeping it that way. That would be too easy for His Majesty! No He even demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He restores what was lost, and redeems those who have fallen away from Him. What a powerful God we serve! This man was born blind to reveal God's glory.

Jesus will one day turn to His disciples as pass the task on to them. When Jesus ascends into heaven is He in the world any longer? Did His works stop? No, they continue on in Acts through His disciples and through the church. Jesus is still the light of the world even today as He makes His glory known through the church, His body.

2. God's Children Are Sent

Jesus does so much more than just answer the disciples' question and teach them. He immediately demonstrates the glory of His power in causing this blind man to see. As soon as this man receives his sight, he is being used for the glory of God. Awe and amazement come from those who knew him before as the blind beggar but now see him as the seeing Christian. He begins to tell his story to those around him.

I think of our Sunday night testimony times where someone within our congregation shares their testimony of God's grace in their lives. At one time, we were blinded by the deceitfulness of sin – our self-seeking, self-pleasing passions and desires that we lead us to trample over others and curse God. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love toward us, made us alive together with Christ – by grace we have been saved (Eph. 2:4-5). Our testimonies are not ours to keep to ourselves. We are not to be embarrassed with the person we once were, but instead praise God for His power to redeem even someone as sinful as me. Let your testimony now become light to others. Share what God has done in your life. Tell others of Jesus.

If you have been changed by the blood of Christ, then you are now a missionary sent for His glory. Speak of Him to those around you and though you have not "seen" Him you know that He is real because of His gentle touch in your life. He has opened your eyes. You don't know what He looks like, but one day you will see Him as He is and you will be made like Him – Light of the World.

The blind beggar was told by Jesus to go wash in the Pool of Siloam (which means sent). Little does this blind beggar know, that he has now been employed by the God of the universe to stand in the forces of heaven and proclaim the glories of his God and King to a dying world. So you too have been sent if you have been changed by the blood of Christ.

Know too, that being sent to display the works of God in your life will bring certain opposition. Disbelief, resentment, and even a casting out from those whom you once called your own. This is what happened to Jesus of Nazareth when His own did not receive Him. This is what happened to the blind beggar when spoke to the Pharisees. If you are a follower of Jesus, then should you expect any different? Oh how the luxuries of this life have nurtured within us an entitlement to the “good life” as opposed to a willingness to sacrifice. As children who are sent, we are to proclaim the glories of our God and Savior utilizing the truth He has left in our possession. His written Word. Being sent, we are to carry His message to the world. A message that Jesus saves! The blind man may not have been able to enter into the temple, but apparently he knew the Scriptures. For when the Pharisees proclaimed that they were followers of Moses, but questioned Jesus’ miracles, this blind beggar saw Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus *was* the greater prophet that was to come after Moses as declared in Deuteronomy 18. Even though he was just the blind beggar, God had revealed more truth to him than to the educated Pharisees.

3. God’s Children Are Rescued

Immediately after this, the Pharisees cast the blind beggar (who could now see) out. This is to be expected of the believer who is not of this world. The follower of God will either be tempted to become like the world or will be cast out of the world. This is because once a child’s eyes are open, we are no longer of this world but of the Father who is in heaven. We are not of this world, but we are in this world and we desperately need to be rescued.

After Jesus had heard that the blind beggar had been cast out, He came and found him. “Do you believe in the Son of God?” Remember, that up until this point the blind beggar has never laid eyes on Jesus. He was told to go and wash at the Pool of Siloam and when he returned, Jesus was not there. But when Jesus came and found him, He revealed Himself to this poor beggar.

Believer, we too will one day lay our eyes on Jesus our Savior. We believe in Him, although we have not seen Him, because we have experienced His power in causing our blind eyes to see. One day we will see Him... and we will be made like Him for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2). I can’t wait for that glorious day when I will finally see the One Who rescued me. And He will call all His children to Himself and we will be with Him forever in glory. Amen