

“The Gospel of John: New Eyes”

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Scripture

John 9:1-16

“As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, **who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?**"

Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was **so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**

"We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.
"While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

When He had said this, **He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,** and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So, he went away and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore, the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "**Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?**" Others were saying, "This is he," still others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one."

So, they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" He answered, "**The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes,** and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash; so, I went away and washed, and I received sight.'" They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

They **brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind.** Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Therefore, some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them."

Last Week

Chapter 8 -> Jesus confronted by the Jews; Jesus puts the Jews in their place

It was a mic drop moment -> **I AM the "I AM"!**

They pick up stones to kill Him

The Pharisees have Spiritual Blindness -> Now we see a case of Physical Blindness

How many of you had spiritual blindness in your life?

An Important Question

Why do bad things happen to good people?

How do we understand birth defects, natural disasters, general evil at work in the world?

A Blind Man

John 9:1-2

“As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, ‘Rabbi, **who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?**’”

What about the “Sins of the Fathers”?

Many occurrences in the Old Testament in Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

For example:

Numbers 14:18

“The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.**”

Not a curse that lasts generations

The parental effect DOES impact children and grandchildren and beyond

OT Kings as an example of legacy:

1 Kings 15:1-3

“Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. He reigned three years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. **He walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, like the heart of his father David.**”

2 Kings 21:19-22

“Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manasseh his father had done. **For he walked in all the way that his father had walked and served the idols that his father had served and worshiped them. So, he forsook the LORD, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.**”

It is very difficult to break free of parental practices

Lamentations 5:7 (Jeremiah wrote, concerning the evil in Jerusalem)

“Our fathers sinned and are no more; It is we who have borne their iniquities.”

Jeremiah recognizes that the choices of the Jewish leaders have impacted him in the present situation

Can sin in a father's life make his child blind?

Jesus has to respond to an honest question from His disciples

Jesus teaches us about events that we would consider as bad or evil

Individual Accountability

John 9:3

“Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was **so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**”

Jesus tells the disciples that sin is not even involved in the man’s condition

The disciples were taught some bad doctrine -> they errantly believed that parental sin impacted children

The man was blind for a purpose -> God’s purposes alone

“so that the works of God might be displayed in him” -> God will use the man’s condition for His glory

He was born blind for the sole purpose of Jesus coming along and healing him at this time

God controlled the events of his life

These events still happen today

People overcome great challenges in life for the purpose of strengthening others in similar situations

Joni Eareckson Tada Story

- Diving Accident
- Depression
- Salvation
- Disability Ministry
- Americans with Disabilities Act

People suffer through loss and then minister to others with the same loss

Who are examples of great faith in your life, overcoming tremendous obstacles?

1 Corinthians 12:9 -> “Gift of Faith by the Spirit”

This is extreme faith under difficult circumstances

Great faith, like Job -> **Job 13:15** -> “Though He [God] slay me, yet will I trust Him”

Extreme faith is a work of the Spirit’s gifting to someone to endure -> it is a “work of God”, too

Jesus reminds the disciples of His prior statement:

It’s My Time

John 9:4-5

“We must work the works of Him who sent Me **as long as it is day**; night is coming when no one can work. **While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.**”

“We must work the works of Him who sent Me” -> God the Father set the plan in place for Jesus

“as long as it is day” -> as long as I am here on the earth”

“night is coming” -> The Light of the world will soon be snuffed out

“no one can work” -> After Jesus’s crucifixion, darkness fell -> historians say it was a great eclipse

The Gospels record darkness “when the sixth hour came” and continuing until the 9th hour (Mark 15:33)

Is Jesus talking about physical darkness here?

This is the second time Jesus has said that He is the Light of the world

John 8:12

“Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.’”

Jesus provided spiritual light to the world

Why is this important, speaking of darkness and light?

Because Jesus has encountered a blind man

How long had this man been blind? -> He was blind from birth

This man has never seen light! -> He has lived in darkness until now

The Miracle of New Eyes

John 9:6-7

“When He had said this, **He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,** and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So, he went away and washed, and came back seeing.”

Jesus spits on the ground and creates a clay to place on the man’s eyes

He tells the man to go away and wash

He gets to the Siloam pool -> South from the temple area to the Southeast corner of Jerusalem

The man gets to the pool, washes, and then finds his way back

How did God create Adam?

Genesis 2:7

“The LORD God formed man **of dust from the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

The miracle here is now healing dead eyes but creating NEW eyes!

Jesus is the Creator

Colossians 1:16-17

“For **by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- **all things have been created through Him and for Him**. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

In the same way as man was created in Genesis, from dust, **Jesus fashioned new eyes for a blind man!**

Jesus said, “so that the works of God might be displayed in him” -> so Jesus’s creative work could be shown

What was the people’s reaction to the miracle?

The Reaction to the Miracle

John 9:8-9

“Therefore, the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “**Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?**” Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “**I am the one.**”

Is this the same guy?

“**Is not this the one who used to sit and beg**” – blindness ensured a life of begging for alms

We see an example of that in **Acts 3:1-7** where Peter and John heal a lame man who was begging

“The neighbors” -> presumably people who would have known the man

They question if it is the same man

Some were saying, “No”, others, “Yes”

Some are hesitant to say YES because they would then have to consider the cause of the miracle

“**I am the one**” -> the man overhears the conversation about him and identifies himself

Ending the speculation about who he was, naturally, the question moves to:

How did it happen?

John 9:10-12

“So, they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” He answered, “**The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes**, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash; so, I went away and washed, and I received sight.’”

They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

People were curious about the miracle and asked him what the story was

The man tells the story, and the people ask where Jesus is

How would you be if you saw a miracle such as this?

Skepticism, perhaps? -> We tend to doubt that true miracles still exist in modern times

We have to remember that God is still active in the world -> miracles can and do exist

The Reporting of the Miracle

John 9:13-15

“They **brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind**. Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, “He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

They neighbors brought the man to the Pharisees

Why did they bring him to the Pharisees? -> Is this a tattle tale situation?

It was the Sabbath day -> Jesus had a history of healing on the Sabbath day – **John 5:1-17**

At the end of that interaction with the Pharisees, Jesus said:

John 5:17

“My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working”

A similar response ensued from this miracle:

The Reaction to the Miracle Worker

John 9:16

“Therefore, some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.”

What can we learn from the Pharisees’ reaction?

Bias can impact belief:

Regardless of the miracle, they were biased against Jesus because He willfully broke their rules

The Pharisees are divided about Jesus

It is the same within families:

Matthew 10:34-36

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.”

How should we apply the learning from today?

- God’s divine planning impacts what we see in the world -> He still performs miracles
- We should seek God’s purposes in events that occur in our lives
- God loves and cares for his own -> **Romans 8:28**

Prayer -> “Who Am I?”

Benediction – Romans 8:28-30

“And we know that God **causes all things to work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.”