

JOHN 9:1-7
THE BLIND SEE!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 9 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

In this chapter we are going to see Jesus heal a blind man, a man who was born blind.

And in that healing we are going to see a lot of confusion and a lot of anger, which is always interesting when you see someone who has been healed and people are upset about it because it does not fit their theology! But we will see that take place over the next few weeks as we study this chapter of the Gospel of John.

Now when we think of someone who is born blind, who is born with a handicap, we are thankful that we were born healthy or without any problems.

In saying that, let me clarify the situation here. We were all born blind!

I know, that is shocking. But think about it. When you were born, you were born a sinner!

Sorry, I know some of you are thinking, ***“Not me! I was cute and adorable! How can you say that? I had no problems; I was not born blind!”***

Please understand that I didn't say you were not born cute and adorable, I just said you were a cute and adorable sinner, you were blind to the things of God!

And that is what we see here in John chapter 9. Yes, this man was born physically blind, and Jesus healed him.

But he was also born spiritually blind, and Jesus healed him of that, which was the most important healing!

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

While staying with my friends Tim and Jill Jones, I watched their hamster, Hammy, in his little cage. Hammy has a warm nest of cedar shavings to curl up in, a water bottle to drink from, and best of all, a wheel he can run inside of. He has everything a hamster could want or need.

But Hammy refuses to run inside his running wheel. Instead, he has come up with what he thinks is a better idea.

Hammy climbs up on top of the wheel, turns over on his back on the top of the wheel, and stretches out. Gradually the wheel starts to turn, and Hammy's entire body rolls with it, headfirst.

The wheel picks up speed and spins faster and faster until clunk! Hammy's head smacks on the bottom of the cage.

Hammy gets up, shakes himself, apparently hurt from the unexpected sharp blow on his head.

But what does Hammy do?

He climbs back up on top of the wheel, turns over, stretches himself out, and gets ready to clunk his head again.

Why? Why would a hamster who has everything he needs disregard the wheel's proper use and do something that only hurts himself? And why, even after that, would he do it again?

The bigger question is, why do humans, who are supposedly smarter than hamsters, sometimes do the same thing?

Poor Hammy. But as you see what Hammy went through, the things that he did, think of it like this as we make an application of that story.

A person is not a horse thief because he steals horses. No, he steals horses because he is a horse thief! It is his nature!

Now let's apply that to us.

We are not sinners because we sin. I know, shocking. The reality is, we sin because we are sinners. It is our nature. And thus, we sit on top of that wheel and before long the world has us head over heels as we crash.

And to our surprise, we hop back on top of that wheel, or we go back to that sin or indulge in another sin, and we come crashing down again.

And the only solution is to be born again or to crucify the flesh, to put that old man, that old lifestyle to death and come alive in Christ with that new nature!

Let me fill in some of the details that will lead us into this chapter here in the Gospel of John.

In our last study we saw Jesus show us that He is God. In fact, in John 8:58 Jesus said, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”**

In other words, Jesus is claiming to be Almighty God, something the Jewish religious leaders rejected. In fact, they are so upset with the words that Jesus spoke, they wanted to kill Him, stone Him to death!

And this teaching by Jesus, that He is Almighty God, is what we see throughout the Gospel of John.

This is not a concept that Christians came up with, it is what Jesus taught and again, that is what made the Jewish religious leaders so angry, so upset, that He being a man made Himself equal with God.

Remember what we read in John 5:18, **“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”**

Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse. We are told, **“This made the Jews more determined than ever to kill Him [to do away with Him]; because He not only was breaking (weakening, violating) the Sabbath, but He actually was speaking of God as being [in a special sense] His own Father, making Himself equal [putting Himself on a level] with God.”**

So to say that they were angry with Jesus is putting it mildly. And the problem was that Jesus taught this truth, that He is Almighty God, over and over again and it is going to disturb the Jewish religious leaders so much, that, in the end, they will have Jesus put to death!

One writer gives us this perspective of what took place leading up to John chapter 9. He wrote,

As chapter 8 concludes, John paints a picture of crisis with the Jews ready to stone Jesus. . . . Those who hated Christ and tried to stone Him in chapter 8 continue their severe opposition to Jesus in chapter 9.

Even though it was a Sabbath (9:14) and Jesus was in the temple proper (8:59), still some of these religious leaders were prepared to break their religious laws to destroy Jesus.

Their attempt is unsuccessful as Jesus . . . left the temple (8:59).

What is interesting to me is that these Jewish religious leaders who could clearly see with their physical eyes, were spiritually blind!

Think about it. Several hundred years earlier the glory of God, the Shekinah glory that filled the Holy of Holies in the Temple, departed. The glory of God moved out of the Temple and then up and over the Mount of Olives because of the wickedness of the nation.

In Ezekiel chapter 8 we see the wickedness of the people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Listen to what we are told of the elders of Israel. Ezekiel wrote, “**Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, ‘The Lord does not see us, the Lord has forsaken the land.’**” Ezekiel 8:12.

Ezekiel sees seventy elders of Israel gathered together and instead of worshiping the true and living God they are offering incense, they are worshiping these animals, these creatures!

Can you imagine, worshiping these idols instead of worshipping the God who created them!

It is what Paul spoke about in Romans chapter 1 where they worship the creature instead of the Creator!

And these elders thought that no one was watching them, they did these things in the dark.

In fact, they felt that what they did in this chamber not even God was aware and how wrong they were.

And it gets even worse. In Ezekiel 8:14 we are told, **“So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord’s house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.”**

Instead of worshiping the Lord they were worshiping and weeping for Tammuz, a Babylonian deity.

And when you think it can’t get any worse, listen to what we are told in Ezekiel 8:16, **“So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord’s house; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.”**

Ezekiel sees 25 of these men, possible representing the 24 courses of priests along with the High Priest himself. It was showing the wickedness of the religious leaders who turned from Yahweh and were worshiping the Babylonian sun god!

And look at what they are doing here. Instead of facing towards the holy of holies they have turned their backs to the Lord, and they are facing towards the east worshipping the sun god.

And you may be thinking, ***“How in the world did they get that far from God?”***

Let’s just say it is a slippery slope that they were traveling on and what happened to them we see happening in the church today!

We need to be careful because there, in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, they had moved so far away from God that they had idols on every street corner!

To look at this today, look at the number of churches that have removed crosses, they don’t have a cross in their sanctuary or anywhere in the church.

Why is that?

Because the cross is offensive. Paul said that in I Corinthians 1:18, **“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”**

Again, as you start moving away from the things of God, the Word of God, you will replace it with worldly things!

And look at how the glory departed from the Southern Kingdom of Judah, just as it has departed from many churches today!

In Ezekiel 10:4 we are told, **“Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory.”**

Here we see God’s glory, the Shekinah glory, moving away from the nation.

Now please understand that the people did not want the Lord anymore. They had other gods they were worshiping and thus, God will not remain where He is not wanted, and He is leaving the Temple and the nation.

Now as He is leaving, He pauses at the threshold of the Temple. I get the idea that He didn’t want to leave but they drove Him out as I have said!

And we see in Ezekiel 11:23, **“And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.”**

Back in Ezekiel chapter 10 we see the glory of the Lord move from the Holy of Holies to the east gate of the Temple and as sad as that was, it gets worse here.

We see the glory of the Lord, the Shekinah glory moving from the east gate to the Mount of Olives. He is leaving the city; He is leaving the nation.

At this point you could place a sign over the city of Jerusalem saying, “**ICHABOD**” or “***The glory has departed!***”

God’s chariot-throne was waiting for Him as He departed from this nation.

But now, after several hundred years the glory of God, the Shekinah glory returned in the person of Jesus Christ, and they could not see, they were blind to the fact that Jesus is Almighty God!

Well, let me clarify that. These Jewish religious leaders refused to see who was before them, the Great ***I AM!***

As spiritually blind as they were, this morning we are going to be introduced to a man who was born blind and not only were his physical eyes opened, but his spiritual eyes also, as I have said.

And keep in mind the blindness of the religious leaders as compared to this man born blind. And we will see that played out over the next few weeks.

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning, here in John chapter 9, into 3 main points in a study I have called – ***THE BLIND SEE!***

These points are,

SICKNESS AND SIN – JOHN 9:1-2

QUESTION ANSWERED – JOHN 9:3-5

THE BLIND SEE – JOHN 9:6-7

So with that as our as our introduction, let’s begin reading in John chapter 9, beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we look at – ***THE BLIND SEE!***

JOHN 9**VERSES 1-2**

Remember at the close of John chapter 8, as the Jewish religious leaders picked up stones to stone Jesus, that He “**passed by**” them.

Now, as this chapter opens up, we once again see that Jesus passes by but this time, as He was walking in the Temple area, He saw this man who was blind from birth.

And this man sat and was begging for money, for food and as the disciples of Jesus saw this man, they came up with a theological question.

I find that interesting. Here is a man in need of help and they want to debate why he is in this condition! May we not do that but reach out to people in love!

And their question is an interesting one. They said to Jesus, “**Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?**” John 9:2.

Keep in mind that the disciples of Jesus held onto a tradition that basically said that if you were sick, then you must have some sin in your life. The Jewish religious leaders taught this doctrine and they were seriously wrong.

But for this blind man, he was born blind and thus, did his parents sin before he was born or did he sin in the womb that caused him to be blind? In other words, a prenatal sin!

What a terrible theology!

Morris expounds on this by saying, “*It was widely held that suffering, and especially such a disaster as blindness, was due to sin. The general principle was laid down by Rabbi Ammi: ‘There is no death without sin, and there is no suffering without iniquity.’*”

Now let me also say this before we dig any farther into this subject. There are times when children do suffer the consequences of their parents' sinful choices.

For instance, a mother who smokes or drinks alcohol or does drugs while she is pregnant, her child will suffer the consequences of her actions.

Also, if the mother has gonorrhea, it can affect the baby. You see, as the baby passes through the birth canal of this mother who has gonorrhea it can affect the baby's eyes and they can become blind if their eyes are not treated medically after birth.

But that is not the case here.

Yes, what we see in this world with sickness and death is a result of sin being brought into this world, but not every sickness is a result of that person sinning!

Now today, in the twenty-first century, we would never think like that, would we?

You bet we would because that bad theology is still around today.

Let me give you this example.

There was a woman who was born blind and after she came to Jesus, she joined a church that believed she should be healed of her blindness.

Then, when she wasn't she said that the people in this church told her, ***"Something in my life that hindered God's will, God was held up because of some point of sin or disobedience that He just couldn't get around until I straightened up."***

What a sad theology to have.

Yes, as I have said, there are times we do bring sickness upon ourselves due to what we are involved in, but that is not the case all the time!

And can you imagine laying this guilt trip on this poor woman.

It was like Job's friends, miserable comforters as they were.

Thank God that she came to her senses and saw their error and that it was not her fault she was born blind or that she wasn't healed!

Let me give you one more example to show that this is still around today.

Fred Price said this regarding people who are sick, have handicaps and you see if this is the heart of God or not. Fred Price died of COVID in 2021 but his ministry continues on through his son and the same garbage is being taught.

Just listen to what he said, “. . . *how can you glorify God in your body, when it doesn't function right? How can you glorify God? How can He get glory when your body doesn't even work? . . . What makes you think the Holy Ghost wants to live inside a body where He can't see out through the windows and He can't hear with the ears? What makes you think the Holy Spirit wants to live inside of a physical body where the limbs and the organs and the cells do not function right? . . . And what makes you think He wants to live in a temple where He can't see out of the eyes, and He can't walk with the feet, and He can't move with the hand? . . . The only eyes that He has that are in the earth realm are the eyes that are in the body. If He can't see out of them then God's gonna be limited. . . .*”

Imagine telling people that! Maybe he should read the Scriptures and see that Paul had an eye problem that decreased his ability to see before he condemns and lays all this guilt on people that have a physical handicap!

Sadly, like I have said, he died of COVID, and I am sure no one thought he had some sin in his life that caused that but he said that of others.

Look at the life of Job, he was a righteous man and yet suffered physical problems, not because of some sin in his life!

Let the Scriptures set you free from the bondage that so many people try to place you in today! And here is the reality if we truly want to look at it. We all are tainted by sin as Ray Stedman tells us.

He wrote,

What that indicates, of course, is that we are not living in a world where we can always expect perfection; that God does not try to operate the world in such a way that everything works out beautifully.

We are living in a fallen world. From Genesis to Revelation, the Scriptures declare that we are living in a broken world, a fragmented world, a world which is not what it once was and is not what it shall be.

For the present we are afflicted with hurts and damage and injuries and difficulties and hardships. That is part of life today, and it is all a result of the introduction of the principle of human evil, of sin, into human life.

The Scriptures confirm that everybody is affected by this principle of human evil.

Many of us think we have escaped it because we were not born with evident handicaps.

But in fact we all have handicaps.

Someone has well said, "When you look at a beautiful athlete" . . . these fine, handsome, well-coordinated young men and women, "what you are looking at is the ruin of an Adam."

Everywhere humanity reflects the weakness of the fall. This is why our minds cannot operate as they should.

I tried to quote a poem in the early service and I could not think of the first line. It just fled from me. That shows how sin has attacked me. And you are no better off!

Now this is what the disciples of Jesus thought, and we have seen what some feel today, but forget about that. People have all kinds of strange ideas that are not true.

Remember the title of these verses – ***SICKNESS AND SIN!***

And for the disciples of Jesus, they just followed what the rabbis taught, that if you are sick, and in this case, you are born blind, there is some sin either from your parents or prenatal sin that you did, you sinned in the womb!

Again, people have all kinds of ideas about this. But the bigger issue is not what they think or what we think. The bigger issue is what does Jesus say regarding this matter!

And, as we will see - ***QUESTION ANSWERED!***

Let's read on and see what Jesus has to say regarding this theological question that the disciples of Jesus asked Him!

VERSES 3-5

Keep in mind the theology of the disciples of Jesus had. If you are sick, you have some sin in your life.

But we now see what Jesus has to say about that. He is saying that not all sickness is a direct result of sin.

And to make His point, He speaks of this man who was born blind, that it was not a result of sin that brought on this condition of blindness!

Yes, as I have said, some sickness is a direct result of sin, like sexually transmitted diseases can be a result of sexual promiscuity.

But not all sickness is a direct result of sin as the book of Job clearly shows us!

And as we will see, Jesus is going to use this man's blindness to glorify God, as He heals this man of his blindness.

Does that mean that God gave this man this blindness so He could heal him?

Not at all.

This is all part of the fall and God does not cause it, but He allows it so He can be glorified through it. He will use it for His good.

Listen to what F. F. Bruce says regarding this issue. He wrote,

This does not mean that God deliberately caused the child to be born blind in order that, after many years, his glory should be displayed in the removal of the blindness; to think so would again be an aspersion [slander] on the character of God.

It does mean that God overruled the disaster of the child's blindness so that, when the child grew to manhood, he might, by recovering his sight, see the glory of God in the face of Christ, and others, seeing this work of God, might turn to the true Light of the World.

- F. F. Bruce, The Gospel of John, p. 209

We need to understand that!

Jesus then says, "**I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**" John 9:4-5.

What is Jesus talking about here?

I believe that Jesus is speaking of His character.

The dictionary defines character like this, "*the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing.*"

When we look at the life of Jesus, what is the driving force in His life?

His passion was to glorify the Father and He did this by faithfully representing Him to the people of this world and finishing the work that the Father sent Him to do!

And we see that in the life of Jesus and that is what He passed down to His disciples who then passed it on to others.

And the work that He came to do was to call sinners to Himself so that they can be set free from the bondage of sin that they were in and that was accomplished as He went to the cross of Calvary to pay in full the penalty for our sins!

We see this played out for us in Luke 19:10, **“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”**

But if people are in darkness, they are blind to the sin that they are in, how can they be made to see?

Remember what Jesus said, **“... I am the light of the world.”** John 9:5.

Keep in mind that Jesus brought light into this world in creation, when He created the heavens and the earth, as we see in Genesis chapter 1.

And just as He brought that light into the world, His light shines upon sinners and they come forth as a new creation as they can now see. You see, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God and through that our blind eyes can now see!

Paul wrote in II Corinthians 4:6, **“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”**

When we open our lives up to Jesus, that light drives out that darkness and as Paul tells us in II Corinthians 5:17, **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”**

Or as The Amplified Bible puts it, **“Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!”**

The light of God has touched our lives and like being out in the sun affects our skin, so being in the Son of God affects our nature!

If you want to be more like Jesus, spend more time with Him!

We are also told here in John 9:4-5a, **“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world . . .”**

I believe the point that Jesus is making here is that His time on earth is short, that His ministry would come to an end, He was going to be crucified! His ministry was not very long, some three plus years and then He was crucified.

And this is interesting to me. He is saying that while He is here, while there is still time, He was going to do all that He could until the darkness of death came upon Him. Keep in mind that the cross at this point in His ministry was only six months away. So His time was short!

And yes, He would be raised the third day, but His earthly ministry was over and now the Holy Spirit was going to work through believers!

The Puritan pastor, Richard Baxter wrote, ***“I preached as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men”*** (cited in I. D. E. Thomas, A Puritan Golden Treasury, p.

223)

I like that and my wife knows that this is my passion. To do all I can for the Lord while I can.

Let's face it. We all have a limited time to do the work that God has called us to do. And we need to finish the race of faith strong and not just sit back and do nothing.

Remember what Moses wrote in Psalm 90:12, "**So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**"

Oh that we would learn to number our days, to be aware of the days that God has given us and live them to the fullest serving Him.

There was a commercial several year's back that said, "*Life is tough, so play hard!*"

That is what the world says we should do, but not God.

That is not what Moses is saying here.

Yes, life is tough, it is short, and because of that we need God to give us His wisdom so we can maximize our time here on the earth.

In other words – ***LIFE IS TOUGH, IT IS SHORT, SO LIVE IT TO THE FULLEST SERVING THE LORD!***

You see, God has equipped us with abilities to do things in the body of Christ. Use those gifts, ask God to help you make better use of your time, and not to waste it.

Paul said in I Corinthians 1:30-31, "**But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption - that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.'**"

Thus, through the work of Jesus in our lives He is imparting to us the Wisdom of God! May we listen and obey and do the work that God has called us to do!

Let me ask you this. And it is not to make you feel guilty, but that each of us would examine our hearts and see what the Lord wants us to do.

What are you doing for the Lord right now?

If you are not doing anything, why?

Jesus is our example and He set His face to go to Jerusalem to finish the work that the Father sent Him to do, and we also must set our face to finish the work that our Father has sent us to do.

Now let's deal with illness, tragedies, things that happen in our lives, and we have talked about this, but I want to make sure you understand what this is all about.

Make no mistake about it, God allows things to happen in our lives so that He might accomplish His work in our lives.

What happens as these things happen to us is at times we get upset, we get angry, we get mad at God.

The lesson here is instead of complaining or getting angry as you go through these things in your life, see what God is going to do in you and through you as you are going through them.

Let me share this example with you from what one Pastor wrote. We are told,

“The issue is not sin,” said Jesus. “Rather, this man's misery gives Me opportunity for ministry. I am the Light of the world, and I have only so many hours in which I can work before night falls on the day of My public ministry.”

Misery always opens the door for ministry.

As a junior in high school, I had the opportunity to represent our district at the Athletes in Action National Conference. Although the conference began Monday morning, the featured speaker failed to show up for Monday's, Tuesday's and Wednesday's meetings. He was on campus, but the pain he lived with continually prevented him from joining us.

Maybe you've heard his story: During the '68 - '69 season, Brian Sternberg was at the West Coast Relays in Fresno, California, pumped, primed, and poised to break the world record in the pole-vault. The day before the meet, he was doing what pole-vaulters often do - working out on the trampoline. But following one particular double flip, he hit the metal railing and broke his neck. It was a tragedy and a shock to the track and field world when Sternberg was told not only that he would never vault again, but that he would be a quadriplegic for the rest of his life.

Other speakers and athletes filled in for Brian at the AIA Conference. Then came Thursday night. After Brian was wheeled out, he began to share with this group of young athletes how he had been a nominal, lukewarm Christian for a number of years. Then came the tragedy. And he said, "As I was in the hospital flat on my back, hearing I would never run, never walk, never even lift my hands again, God started to do a work in my life and gave me a peace I cannot explain. Jesus became so incredibly real to me at that time and has been real to me since then in a way I could never comprehend or explain." Then, with tears rolling down his cheeks, this world-class athlete said, "If that was the only way I could have what I have right now in my heart, I would take that jump all over again."

When he extended an invitation to make a real commitment to Jesus Christ, virtually the entire audience came forward. We saw revival happen unlike anything I've ever seen before or since. But it came through a man who was broken and in pain.

You who are going through difficulties, you who are experiencing tragedy, sickness, or hard times - watch out that you don't become introspective and wonder what you've done wrong. Jesus would say to you today, "Sin is not the issue. The question is not, "Who caused the misery?" The question is, "Will you allow Me to use it?"

The Greek language has no punctuation, so I believe a better rendering of this passage would be: *"But that the works of God should be made manifest in him, I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day."* In other words, *"It's not a time to speculate philosophically. It's a time to reach out compassionately."*

- Jon Courson, Jon Courson's Application Commentary, New Testament, pp. 514-515

I do realize that this is not always easy. Many people are born with handicaps, or later in life they develop some health issues that make it harder for them to do things. It is not easy.

But, like I have said, instead of getting angry or depressed, see how God is going to use you to bring glory to Him as this young man did!

Back in November of 2021 I developed some back issues. It was so bad that at times I could not even sit. I stood to eat meals and stood to watch television. The pain was so bad it brought me to tears.

And I was seeing a doctor and I received some injections in my back, which didn't help. And this was going on for three months.

To say I was not happy is putting it mildly.

Then, in January I traveled to Russia to teach at a Pastor's Conference and share the Word wherever I could. The Lord allowed me to teach some eight times in Russia.

Was I in pain?

Yes, but the Lord was gracious, and it was better than I thought.

When I got home I saw an orthopedic surgeon who did some tests on me and came to the conclusion that this is a problem with my back, with the lumbar spine, L4 and L5.

From there I saw a neurosurgeon who said I needed surgery to fix some bone spurs and some spinal stenosis and that would take care of the problem.

As I heard all of this, I started to get mad because it took so long to figure this out when the MRI was done back in September!

And then the Lord reminded me that if I had the surgery back in November or December, I would not have been able to go to Russia!

God has a plan and I think the problem comes when we see our plans, what we want to do, and for me it was to run and not be in pain so I could also sit down, and we miss out what God was doing! Getting me to Russia

Let me also say this. As we go through difficult times, we should examine our life and see if there is something we are doing that has brought this upon us. That is a good thing.

And let's face it, it is a dark world out there, but don't let that stop you from ministering to people.

Jesus knew that healing this man on the Sabbath would bring greater opposition from the religious leaders who already wanted to silence and kill Him.

Yet His compassion for this man drove Him to do it anyway.

And that is a question we need to ask ourselves. ***“Are we more concerned about ourselves or are we concerned for the lost? Are we willing to sacrifice our lives to see people come into the kingdom of God?”***

That is something we have to come to grips with. We have to do a heart check and see where we are at, what we are willing to do for the Lord even when we might have a handicap.

Now notice what Jesus does for this man who was born blind – ***THE BLIND SEE!***

VERSES 6-7

Think about this. Here was a man who was born in this hopeless condition, being born blind, with no chance to ever see. He was now an adult so can you imagine never seeing your parents. Never seeing a sunrise or a sunset. Never seeing flowers, trees, grass, animals, clouds, nothing but darkness! We take sight for granted but being able to see is amazing!

And here is this man who encounters Jesus and Jesus heals him!

How does that relate to us?

Think of it like this. We too were born in a hopeless condition, it is called sin. There is no way we can cleanse ourselves from it, but Jesus can by His cleansing work on the cross of Calvary.

We were once blind but now we see!

And how does Jesus heal this man?

By spitting on the ground and making the dirt into a clay mixture, placing it into this man's eyes and then telling him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam!

And can you imagine people picking up on this and saying, "***We are the church of spitting on the ground and placing that clay in your eyes to be healed!***" Okay, a little long for a church name, but you get the idea!

It seems so foolish, doesn't it?

And yet this man obeyed the Lord and was healed!

Now we don't think much about this. We read this story and move on.

But think about it. Here is this guy with dirt on his eyes, he is blind, and Jesus tells him to "**Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.**" John 9:7.

The distance this man had to travel was about 2,080 feet or almost 4/10 of a mile and it was a climb of about 377 feet.

Wikipedia says it was only 210 feet to the pool of Siloam. And you know how much I trust Wikipedia!

I think it was the 2,080 feet because as he came back, now able to see, we see in John 9:12 that the people wanted to know where Jesus was and the man who could now see said, “**I do not know.**” By the time this man went to the pool of Siloam and was healed and walked back, Jesus was gone!

Now, if it was truly 2,080 feet for this man to travel to the pool of Siloam, how did this man get there if he was blind?

Either by family or friends who led him to the pool of Siloam.

Keep in mind that this pool of Siloam was built by Hezekiah as a way to get a fresh water supply into the city prior to the invasion of Sennacherib and the Assyrians.

This pool is fed by a conduit from the spring of Gihon some 1,780 feet, built through solid rock with workers starting at opposite ends and meeting in the middle with such accuracy they were only a few inches off in meeting dead center!

And if you remember, this is the pool where the priest would go to gather the water into the golden pitcher during the Feast of Tabernacles.

And yet, by faith this man traveled that distance believing that Jesus was going to heal him.

Why did Jesus heal this man this way?

I think one of the reasons was that it was the Sabbath. And it was forbidden in their tradition and their interpretation of the Law to make clay on the Sabbath day, that was work.

So, Jesus not only healed on the Sabbath day, but made clay and placed it in this blind man's eyes, and then told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam.

And, like I said, this man, by faith, obeyed the Lord and he was healed!

Now I don't know about you, but I would be like, "*Now Jesus, instead of spitting on the ground and making some clay and putting it on my eyes, gross, can you just heal me at a distance?*"

Right?

Don't laugh, you would not want some clay that was moistened by spit to be placed on your eyes. Think about it. Would you be happy if someone made a huge spit into the dirt and made some clay out of it and put it in your eyes?

Of course you would not! And yet, this man allowed Jesus to do that!

Now you may be thinking that he was blind so he could not see what Jesus was doing. True, but he was not deaf, and I am sure he heard what Jesus was doing!

I think you can clearly see that this was offensive and yet, think about this for a minute.

Isn't that true of the Gospel? That it is offensive, it seems foolish to many, even us before we were saved! But it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that saves us, as foolish as it may seem.

I hope I don't offend anyone here but think about this.

Look at all the social programs that we see in this country, and do they save people?

Yes, some may get help but many times more harm is done than good. And in the end, if they don't hear the Gospel, they may be delivered from physical bondage, but they will be eternally separated from God!

You see, the Gospel of Jesus can transform our lives, help us to see once again, spiritually speaking as God takes these bodies of clay and pours out His Spirit upon us!

Also, we see Jesus heal many different ways, why?

Because I think we would take what He did and turn them into a healing method! Not with Jesus, He heals in many different ways and God continues to do that today!

Now, how else does this apply to us today, this story?

What does this mean to us?

One of the things we need to see in this is the following.

We see the man was told to “**Go**” and he “**went**” or was *sent!* What do I mean by that?

First of all, the pool of Siloam means “*sent!*”

Also, remember what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20, “**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.**”

And in John 20:21 we are told, “**So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’**”

So we are to **GO** into all the world and just as the Father **SENT** Jesus, we too are **SENT** into this world, not into our churches or homes or whatever, but out into the world to bring the Gospel message to a lost world!

One pastor said this and yes, it is a hard message, but it is one that needs to be heard. He wrote, *“This central message of Scripture pertains to the central mission of the people of God, a mission that, tragically, many Christians do not understand or are unwilling to fulfill. It seems obvious that some Christians think little about their mission in this world, except in regard to their own personal needs. They attend services and meetings when it is convenient, take what they feel like taking, and have little concern for anything else. They are involved in the church only to the extent that it serves their own desires. It escapes both their understanding and their concern that the Lord has given His church a supreme mission (the Great Commission) and that He calls every believer to be an instrument in fulfilling that mission.”*

Not an easy message and we may be convicted by it. But the reality is, what are we doing about it?

C. H. Spurgeon lays it on the line, and he tells us, *“If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.”*

Exactly!

We are in a battle and the days are getting shorter for us to complete the work that God has called us to do. Thus, let us finish strong as I have said and not be sitting around doing nothing for the Lord!

Now, in saying all that, I like the take the Ray Stedman has on all of this. He wrote,
What does clay symbolize in Scripture?

In Genesis we are told that God formed man from the dust of the ground, from the clay of the earth.

That symbolism is used many times in Scripture.

God is the Potter, we read in Jeremiah (Jeremiah 18:4-6). We are the clay. He molds us and shapes us into what he wants us to be.

Believers, the Apostle Paul declares, “have this treasure in earthen vessels” (2 Corinthians 4:7) - clay pots. And the pots are not very strong. Clay is not a very powerful substance. It is malleable and weak.

Thus, all through Scripture, clay is used as a symbol of the weakness and fragility of human nature. We are all made of clay.

We are clay pots. Some of us are even a little cracked! . . .

When our Lord smears clay over this man’s eyes he is saying that there is something hindering the man’s spiritual sight - not only his physical, but his spiritual sight. It is the clay of his humanity, his own and that of those with whom he is surrounded. That fallen human nature is a hindrance to seeing spiritual truth and reality.

When he sends this man on a stumbling journey to the pool of Siloam he is indicating that there is a difficult time ahead of him. The process of healing his spiritual sight will involve a prolonged and difficult journey that will be filled with obstacles. It is only when he gets to the pool that his inner sight will be granted him.

Last June my youngest daughter and I were in Jerusalem, and we walked one afternoon from the temple area down the deep declivity of the Kidron ravine to the pool of Siloam. It was a hot, dusty afternoon, and there were many obstacles along the way.

For a blind man to traverse this would be very difficult. He would have to ask for directions and for help, and he might easily fall into some of the crevices alongside the road on the way down.

It was a difficult journey the Lord sent him on, but when he found his way to the pool, whose meaning is “Sent,” then his eyes would be opened and he would be washed and cleansed.

Clearly this is a description of what follows in this man’s life. Our Lord has worked it out in this beautiful object lesson to indicate what it takes to open blinded spiritual eyes.

Physical eyes can easily be opened by his power, but to open spiritual eyes takes a process of overcoming obstacles that lie in the way. Only as that process is completed, and men come to the place where at last they see who Jesus is, are spiritual eyes opened.

This is the story of the remaining verses of this chapter. It is a story of the resistance that this man met, the obstacles to faith that he overcame, and the gradual insight that he gained as he learned more and more about Jesus until he found himself at last at Jesus’ feet and his spiritual eyes were opened. It is all worked out in a most dramatic way.

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Yes, at this point his physical eyes were opened, but as we will see as we read on in this chapter, he will encounter Jesus once again and his spiritual eyes will be opened!

I guess the lesson for us that God has called us to **GO** into the world and He **SENDS** us to various areas, to do various things for Him.

And I will close with this for you to think about.

“There is only one life it will soon be past and only what is done for Christ will last.”

LOCATION OF THE POOL OF SILOAM

