

Woodland Baptist Church
 May 25, 2014 - Morning Worship
 John 9:1-17, Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind, Part 2
 He Went and Washed and Came Back Seeing

1) READ JOHN 9

a) Re-cap John 8 - transition to John 9 -

i) **Matthew 11:2-6 [Quoting Isaiah]** - 2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: **5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.**" In other words heaven is spilling out on the earth.

2) **Verses 1-7 Jesus gives SIGHT to the man born BLIND**

a) **9 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) Last week we spent a good bit of time exploring this question issued by the disciples - as to why the blind man was born blind. There question, "Rabbi who sinned this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

(1) Hopefully we all learned that our children can obviously be greatly influenced by our habits and personalities and our adverse decision making and the consequences of how we live can affect them and cause them problems...but as far as God holding our children accountable for the parent's sin and punishing them for them - this is not how it works.

(a) **Ezekiel 18:19-20** - 19 "Yet you say, 'Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father?' When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live. 20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

(b) **Jeremiah 31:29-30** - "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." But everyone shall die for his own equity. Each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.

b) **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) **So...why was this man blind?** So the works of God might be displayed on him...Some bad things apparently happen not from bad causes in the past but for good purposes in the future.

(1) The blindness of this man was foreordained by God to be an opportunity to glorify Him! So it's really not about the blind man's blindness, it's about the LIGHT and LOVE of Christ - the Son of God's power to heal and the nature of who he is and an opportunity to show the world who he is and the depths of his love.

(2) **Ephesians 2:10** so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. So, ultimately, it's really not about you and what you want, it's about showing the universe the "manifold wisdom of God."

(3) **Romans 8:38-39** - 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

c) The Christ just ends it and places a sense of great urgency on them - **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."**

- i) **We must work the Father's works while it is Day** - while He is with them; while they are alive, while the opportunity is before them, right now - stop arguing over things you will never be able to figure out and minister to those that need it that are in your midst...**because night is coming**...Christ's death is coming...and your death is coming...the end is coming soon...time is not unlimited...and the clock is ticking.
- d) **Matthew 9:37-38** - 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
- i) **As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world** - as long as he was incarnate and in the world, he was the light of the world and darkness would flee from him...as the darkness of the blind man was about to flee from him.
- e) **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) If we were trying to form a cure for blindness, the last thing we would ever think to do is take your spit, mix it with mud and rub it on someone's eyes. Most of the time that would be one of the worst things you could do to try to help someone that had an eye problem...yet...Christ does just that and we have no idea why - there have been dozens of speculations, but there is no conclusive interpretation to his use of spit and mud.
 - (1) We know there are a couple of other instances where Christ used this method of healing related to saliva:
 - (a) **Mark 7** - he used spit to heal a deaf mute and in **Mark 8** - he used spit to heal man's eyes.
 - (b) Here in John 9, why did he make mud with spit and anoint the man's eyes?
 - (2) One of the suggestions I liked the most is that He created in the blind man the need to go wash his eyes with water - this guy was blind, he didn't wash his eyes regularly - nothing got in his eyes, he was blind...most likely he walked around with his eyelids closed...but when Christ put spit

and mud on his eyes, he was compelled to go wash it off - Christ created in him the need to go wash in water - a symbol of baptism and salvation...

- ii) **"Go wash in the pool of Siloam"** - He is calling for obedience. There is no indication that the blind man knows who just rubbed mud on his eyes, but this command to go wash sure is appealing now that he can feel that someone sticky and gooey has been rubbed on his eyes. But there is a divine prompting in his heart because the Son of God is speaking to him; there is a... unlike with the hardened Jews.
- iii) So he goes to the **Pool of Siloam (which mean Sent)** - Christ is the One sent he is the true Siloam - **the one that was sent, sent the one to be healed.**

(1) He goes and blindly obeyed Christ...**he went and washed and came back seeing.**

3) Verses 8-12 The TESTIMONY of the Blind beggar to his NEIGHBORS

- i) **Luke 12:8-9** - 8 "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, 9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.
- b) **8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10 So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."**
 - i) When God has done something in our lives, the first group of people that will notice will be those that are in close proximity to us - in this case, the blind man's neighbors notice that he is no longer handicapped by blindness.
 - (1) Blind people being healed is just not something you hear about; medical technology has advanced considerably through the years, but even with the technology and great medical advances God has enabled us to achieve, blindness is very rarely completely reversed.
 - ii) As it would in our time, the healing of this man creates a huge stir with the surrounding community. This man has been **blind from birth** - he's been dependent on all kinds of people everywhere and now all of sudden word

gets around that he can see...this is NOT an everyday occurrence and it got some attention.

(1) Also - Christ had a drastic affect on this man - this man **lived his days in darkness and now saw the light of day** - his life has been changed forever by Christ's **spit mixed with dirt** - to make it even more unbelievable.

c) There is some confusion that occurs when conflicting reports are offered by those who have known this man his entire life or at least seen him consistently.

i) **"Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."**

d) What was their primary question - "How were your eyes opened?" NOT "Who" but "How!" **"The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."**

i) How easy it would have been to avoid this question and not testify to what Christ had done for him? But he gave a simple account of what happened to him and notice he used the name "Jesus" so someone told him who healed him between the time Christ put the mud on his eyes and his neighbors talking to him.

e) Notice the question his neighbors asked him - "Where is he?" Like he would know? He's been blind his whole life - he has no sense of direction; he can't describe anything...but one thing he can describe he does - as he testifies to what the Lord Jesus did for him.

4) **Verses 13-17** The TESTIMONY of the blind beggar to the PHARISEES

a) **13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."**

- i) Verse 13 scares us a little - **“They brought the man to the Pharisees.”** Why would his neighbors do that? We read further and realize that Jesus had done this miracle on the Sabbath! That’s why! This was a real problem, especially when you read a little further in the text to verse 22 - **for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.** The blind man implicated Jesus in the miracle, plus it was done on the Sabbath! So, the neighbors are actually respecting the authority structure under which they are constrained. They have now been told that the reason the blind man his sight is because Jesus mixed spit and dirt, making mud, rubbed it on the blind man’s eyes, sent him to the pool to wash and the man came back seeing...on the Sabbath. That had to be reported to the Pharisees because if word got around that they had witnessed this and had first hand knowledge of what had happened and not reported it; they risked being thrown out of the Synagogue.

- (1) Anyone got a burning desire to be excommunicated from your church? Most of that love God and believe His Word do everything we humanly can to live in accordance with the commands of the Scripture and these neighbors of the blind man lived the same way.

- b) **So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”**

- i) Again we see the exact same scenario as we saw with the neighbors - confusion and division - some believed it and celebrated it, some believed it to be wrong.

- (1) This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.
(2) How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?

- ii) An act of God’s miraculous power and love caused what? Division! Well that doesn’t make sense - he is the Prince of Peace! His love unites us, not divides us! Be careful - that is not what the Scripture teaches:

- (1) **Matthew 10:34-39** - 34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to

set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

iii) Christ's compassion and love displayed for the glory of God in the healing of the blind beggar caused confusion and division - why? Because the injection of pure, spiritual truth shatters religious formalism and traditionalism. It takes it and turns it upside down. Because light shined into darkness awakens our hearts from slumber - and we will believe the truth or reject the truth - or try to stand politically in the middle, being lukewarm, which is to God a rejection.

c) **17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."**

i) Now that the pharisees are divided amongst themselves, they turn it back to the blind man...he opened your eyes (confession of truth) what do you say?

(1) He is a "prophet" - notice the progression of the blind man's faith - first he said, "the man called Jesus," now he says, "he is a prophet."

(2) This shows us that times of division and confusion many times have a divine purpose - to refine and strengthen our faith.

5) CLOSE

- a) Most of us here today would claim that Christ in his compassion and love have opened our eyes for the glory of God the father! I ask you today as the Pharisees asked the blind man - "What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?"
- b) Do you witness about the amazing love of God through Christ and his grace? Do you speak of what he has done for you? Even when your world is chaotic and dark, do you still trust Him and love him? Do you acknowledge him before men?