

POWER HOUR

2/2/2025

Lesson Text:
John 9:1-17

Background Scripture:
John 8:12-20

Devotional Reading:
John 9:18-41; 12:35-50

“HEALING A MAN BORN BLIND

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *5 But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.” John 9:5 NLT*

Time: A.D. 29

Place: Jerusalem

John 9:1-17 NLT

1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” 3 “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. 4 We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. 5 But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes. 7 He told him, “Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “sent”). So the man went and washed and came back seeing! 8 His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some said he was, and others said, “No, he just looks like him!” But the beggar kept saying, “Yes, I am the same one!” 10 They asked, “Who healed you? What happened?” 11 He told them, “The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.’ So I went and washed, and now I can see!” 12 “Where is he now?” they asked. “I don’t know,” he replied. 13 Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, 14 because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. 15 The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, “He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So there was a deep division of opinion among them.

17 Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, "What's your opinion about this man who healed you?" The man replied, "I think he must be a prophet."

INTRODUCTION

Throughout His ministry, Jesus was repeatedly confronted by Jewish religious leaders who opposed everything He said and did. John 8 is an example of this. First, they brought to Jesus a woman caught in adultery and tried to corner Him into speaking against the Mosaic Law (John 8: 1-11). When He declared Himself to be the Light of the World (John 8:12), they accused Him of having no witnesses to validate that. This was followed by a heated exchange about who His Father was and an accusation that He was demon-possessed.

On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus declared Himself to be the source of living water (John 7:37-39). In chapter 8 He declared Himself to be the source of spiritual light. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Jesus proceeded to prove in a practical way the truth of what He had said about being the Light of the World. Soon after He made the claim, He was faced with a man living in physical darkness, and He gave him the ability to see.

1. Blind for God's glory (John 9:1-3).

The Jews of Jesus' day knew as we know today, that a child in the womb is affected by the actions of the mother. But there was also a faulty but prominent idea that an unborn child could commit sin in the womb and consequently suffer some terrible judgment for it. Hence, the disciples of Jesus asked Him which of these two possibilities was the reason for the man before them being blind from birth. Jesus responded that neither had sinned to cause the blindness but that it happened so that God might be glorified in him. Of course, Jesus was not saying that the parents and the man were without sin, only that no personal sin had caused this man's blindness.

In a day when theological illiteracy abounds, we all would do well to prayerfully search the Scriptures to discover sound doctrine (John 17:17).

2. Physical blindness healed (John 9:4-7).

As a prelude to giving the man the "light" of sight, Jesus pronounced Himself the Light

of the World. He then gave specific directions for the man to follow. Obviously, the man needed to be faithful to the words spoken by Christ. He was, and he was healed. Many people have some idea of what the Bible says, but far fewer actually believe it to the point of obeying its dictates and following its principles. In addition, many pick and choose which parts to believe and which to toss by the wayside. The Bible needs to be studied so that one may rightly divide the truth (2 Tim. 2:15). To obey is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22).

3. Spiritual blindness unhealed (John 9:8-17).

The neighbors and others who had known the blind man were of varying opinions about whether this man with obvious sight was the same man they had known as blind. After questioning him, they took him to the Pharisees for further examination.

When they learned that the miracle had been done on the Sabbath, there was strong disagreement even among the Pharisees about Jesus. That was nothing new, for many of them were against Jesus for various reasons, while others (for example, Nicodemus) were intrigued by Him.

Nonetheless, those against Jesus remained of the same mind. Upon being asked who it was who healed him, the man declared that He was a prophet. But even that had no positive effect on his interrogators. They remained in the dark about the deed accomplished because they refused to consider the possibility that Jesus was who He claimed to be. Apart from faith, people are blind, without hope of having light.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. People use the sins of others to reassure themselves that similar tragedies will not happen to them (John 9:1-2).
2. God can use even tragedies to show His saving power (vs. 3).
3. The light of Christ is the light of the world; He illumines the path of life (vss. 4-5).
4. God's creative power can transform and heal people who are otherwise incurable (vss. 6-7).
5. As soon as Christ is given credit for something good, unbelievers try to discredit it somehow (vss. 8-13).
6. God's law is never against showing compassion (vss. 14-17).

CONCLUSION

“When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay” (John 9:6). The story of the blind man who was given sight is a familiar passage of Scripture to Christians. One reason this portion of Scripture has received attention is the verse that made it into a traditional hymn: “One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see” (vs. 25)

Jesus, as the God-Man, performed a miracle by restoring sight to the blind. In John 9:1-17, let us consider two things: the uniqueness of the situation and the outcome.

QUESTION(S)

What was the condition of the man described in John 9? How long had he been that way?

What typical Jewish attitude of the day did the disciples express?

What did Jesus say about the reason for the man's blindness?

What did Jesus do in this case to heal the man, and why might He have resorted to such actions?

What question arose in the minds of this man's neighbors, and what did they conclude?

When asked where Jesus was, what did the man answer? Why?

What did the neighbors do in response to the man's words?

What fact did John include to explain the Pharisees' anger?

What was the Pharisees' conclusion about Jesus?

What conclusion did the healed man draw about Jesus?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is ***Fellowship and Sharing Among Believers***

Lesson Text: **Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-35**

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