

Jesus, the Light of the World

John 9:1-12

Thought for the Day: Jesus came into the spiritual darkness and blindness of this world to open our spiritual eyes so that we might see Him and accept Him as the Savior of our soul and the Lord of our life.

In John 9 the Apostle John recounts the story of Jesus giving sight to a man born blind. This is the sixth of seven signs recorded in his Gospel. In John 20:30-31, John tells us why he recorded these miracles: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Jesus certainly healed the man because of His love and compassion for him. But even more important, He healed the man because He wanted him, and us, to be saved! He wants us to recognize that, apart from Him, we are lost and spiritually blind. He alone can restore our sight and give us God's gift of eternal life.

1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

- This man had little hope of any kind of quality of life, and absolutely no hope of ever seeing, apart from a miraculous intervention on his behalf.

2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

- "In Jewish culture, many believed that all calamities and suffering resulted from sin. But this man suffered so that God could be glorified. We live in a fallen world where good behavior is not always rewarded and bad behavior not always punished; therefore, innocent people sometimes suffer. If God removed suffering whenever we asked, we would follow him for comfort and convenience, not out of love and devotion. Regardless of the reasons for our suffering, Jesus has the power to help us deal with it. When we suffer from a disease, tragedy, or disability, we should not ask, Why did this happen to me? or What did I do wrong? Instead, we should ask God to give us strength for the trial and a clearer perspective on what is happening." (*Life Application Commentary Series*)

3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

- God had sovereignly allowed this man to be born blind in order that he might become a means of displaying God's compassion and power.
- "How can God be at work in a desperate situation? There may be times when we have done everything possible to solve a problem. After we have explored the options, exhausted our resources, probed our motives, asked for advice, and done what was suggested, we may have found that nothing seems to have changed. We may have persisted in prayer and asked others to pray for us, and yet perceive no answer. The truth is, the solution, the resolution, or the answer may not ever come in this life. But it is also true that regardless of our difficulty and whether or not our burden is removed, God is still at work:
 - God may use our experience to help advise and encourage others who pass through the same trials.

- God may use our suffering to break through the hardness of another person and bring about change in them.
- God may use our unresolved need to motivate others to keep searching for a solution from which others will benefit.
- God may use our endurance in suffering rather than the suffering itself to be an encouraging example to other believers." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

- "The Savior realized that He had about three years of public ministry before He would be crucified. Every moment of that time must be spent in working for God. Here was a man who had been blind from his birth. The Lord Jesus must perform a miracle of healing on him, even though it was the Sabbath. The time of His public ministry would soon be over, and He would no longer be here on earth. This is a solemn reminder to everyone who is a Christian that life's day is swiftly passing, and the night is coming when our service on earth will be forever over. Therefore, we should use the time that is given to us to serve the Lord acceptably." (*MacDonald, p. 2141*)

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

- The seven "I am" declarations are based on Exodus 3:14, where God identified Himself as the self-existent, eternal, all-powerful God of the universe.
 - Jesus once again identifies Himself as Jehovah God, Yahweh, of the Old Testament.
 - Here, He emphasizes the fact that He came to bring spiritual light into the darkness of this world.
 - Just as He was about to give physical sight to a man born blind, so He gives spiritual sight to people blinded by sin who put their faith and trust in Him.

6 Having said these things, he spat 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.

Six Observations:

- 1) Jesus is God; He can do whatever He chooses to do in whatever manner He chooses to do it.
 - 2) This miracle illustrates that God uses the weak and insignificant things of this world to work out His will and purposes in the world. (1 Cor. 1:26-29)
 - 3) This method of healing required that the blind man exercise faith in Jesus.
 - 4) It gave him time to reflect on Jesus' claim that He is the light of the world.
 - 5) The miracle was instantaneous.
 - 6) "Siloam," as John explains, means "Sent."
 - Jesus "sent" the man to the pool to wash his eyes and receive his sight.
 - Jesus was "sent" by God into the world to give spiritual sight to men and women blinded by sin who are willing to respond to Him in faith and obedience.
- "The healing of the blind man affirmed Jesus' identity as the Messiah, for the Old Testament predicted that the Messiah would come to heal the blind (Isaiah 29:18; 35:5; 42:7)." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

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."

- "The neighbors of the man were startled. They could hardly believe that this was the same man who had sat and begged for so long. (It should be this way also when a person is saved. Our neighbors should be able to notice the difference in us.) Some insisted it was the same man. Others, not quite so sure, were only willing to admit that there was a resemblance. But the man removed all doubt by [repeatedly] stating that he was the one who had been born blind." (*MacDonald, p. 2142*)

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."

- "His testimony was simple, yet convincing. He recited the facts of his healing, giving credit to the One who had performed the miracle. At this time, the man did not realize who the Lord Jesus was. He simply referred to Him as "a Man called Jesus." But later on the man's understanding grew and he came to know who Jesus is." (*MacDonald, p. 2142*)

12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

- "Of course, the crowd wanted to track down this healer, so they asked, "Where is this man?" *NIV* But the man had been blind when Jesus sent him to the pool of Siloam; therefore, he didn't know where Jesus had gone afterward. From this point on, the formerly blind man began to see more clearly who Jesus was, while the Pharisees became more spiritually blind. While sin did not cause the man to be born blind, sin did cause the Pharisees' blindness." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
- We should respond to the light when we see the light; otherwise, we will become even more blind to the truth.