

John 9:1-12

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

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.

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."

1 - Introduction

Jesus came to address and heal a much deeper problem than blindness. This miracle displays the spiritual truth for all people. Every person - believer and unbeliever - is the blind man in this story. We are spiritually blind, and we need the grace of God to help us see.

2 - Initiative of God's Grace

Jesus passed by and he saw a man blind from birth. Jesus went toward this man who represents us. Jesus is always moving toward those who need him. Jesus sees and knows and loves you.

Read Psalm 139:15-16. This is a familiar passage. What does it mean to you?

Jamie Brown said, "We must see the initiative of grace. If we do not see it in the Bible, we will not see it in our own lives." What does this mean? What is the initiative of grace? What are examples of the initiation of grace in the Bible? In John's account of Jesus' life? Does this better equip you to see God's initiative in your own life?

3 - Cause of Blindness

Jesus addresses the deeper purpose of this man's blindness. This man was born blind, so the work of God might be displayed in him.

This can be difficult to hear or see especially in your own life. How have you learned to perceive your circumstances rightly, that is, with this in mind? In the midst of difficult - even heartbreaking - circumstances, are there ways you remind yourself of God's goodness, love, mercy, and sovereignty?

4 - The New Creation of God's Grace

We move to the new creation of God's grace! Jesus repeats that he is the light of the world, and he is the one who is making all things new!

Why does Jesus spit on the ground, make mud, and put it on the man's eyes? To what does this point? See Genesis 2:7. Jesus' choice to heal this man is a metaphor for the new creation, that is, the new creation he makes when someone puts their faith in him.

How does Paul explain this in his second letter to the Corinthians? See 2 Corinthians 5:17 and 21. How would you explain this to a new believer?

5 - Application

Jesus applied a mud salve on the man's eyes.

He applies something else to us. What is it? Jesus applies his blood to us not to cover our sin, but to forgive us of sin and cleanse of all unrighteousness (1 John 1:19). In theological terms

this is called the _____ of righteousness.

There is an imputation and a sanctification. In the case of this man, Jesus applied the mud salve to the man's eyes, and he sent him to wash in the pool. Jesus, the Sent One, sends one - the man - the pool whose name means sent. And then the man becomes sent! He is sent to the religious leaders to tell them his story, that is, simply to testify to the work of God in his life.

Are you sent? To do what? Answer this question for each of the following verses, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, and 1 Peter 2:9.

6 - Transformation and Application

What physical transformation takes place in this man's life? See John 9:7.

What spiritual transformation takes place in this man's life? In other words, how does he identify Jesus in John 9:11? How does he identify Jesus in John 9:17? How does he identify Jesus in John 9:33? How does he identify Jesus in John 9:38? How would you describe this man's transformation?

Is there something about this man's encounter with Jesus that strikes you? Something that convicts you? Challenges you? Encourages you? Do you have a sense of Jesus' transformational work in you? Is there something he is doing in your life you would be willing to share with the entire group?