

JESUS IS THE ONE
WHO HEALS

John 9

BLINDNESS

- Jesus heals a blind man, but instead of belief, it leads to criticism, skepticism, and doubt (except for the blind man).
- The Jewish leaders are in disbelief that the man was blind before he encountered Jesus. They refuse to let Jesus be anything more than a man who is a sinner.
- Jesus explains that He came into the world so that those who do not see may see.

RECOGNIZE YOUR
BLINDNESS AND LET
JESUS OPEN YOUR EYES

AMERICA'S BELIEFS

- 86 percent of adults believe in some concept of God.
- Only 6 out of 10 (62%) believe in an “all-knowing, all powerful creator of the universe who still rules the world today.”
- About 25 percent are agnostic or atheistic.



AMERICA'S BELIEFS

- A large majority (82%) believe Jesus was a historical person.
- Fewer people (2 out of 3) believe Jesus was the Son of God.
- One-fifth (23%) believe that the Bible is the Word of God, has no errors, and can be taken literally.
- A majority believe most current behaviors are moral.

This clip is from
The Visual Bible The Gospel of John, 9 to 10.

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

**VIEW YOUR CHALLENGES
AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
GOD TO RECEIVE GLORY**

JOHN 9:1-12

PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLE (1-5)

- The disciples of Jesus want to know if sinfulness has caused blindness in this man.
- Jesus shows them a different way to think. This man's blindness is an opportunity for God to work.
- Suffering as well as sinfulness can work good in the world through God's providence (Romans 8:28).
- We see this clearly through the cross.

PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLE (1-5)

- No story in the Old Testament deals with giving sight to the blind. The only story outside of the gospels is Saul of Tarsus regaining his sight.
- By contrast, there are more accounts of Jesus healing blind people than any other miracle.
- vs. 4 - “night is coming” - probably refers to the difficult days of the passion week, particularly the crucifixion. We must work while we can.

ANNIE LOUISE WALKER

Work for the night is coming, work through the morning hours.

Work while the dew is sparkling; work 'mid springing flowers.

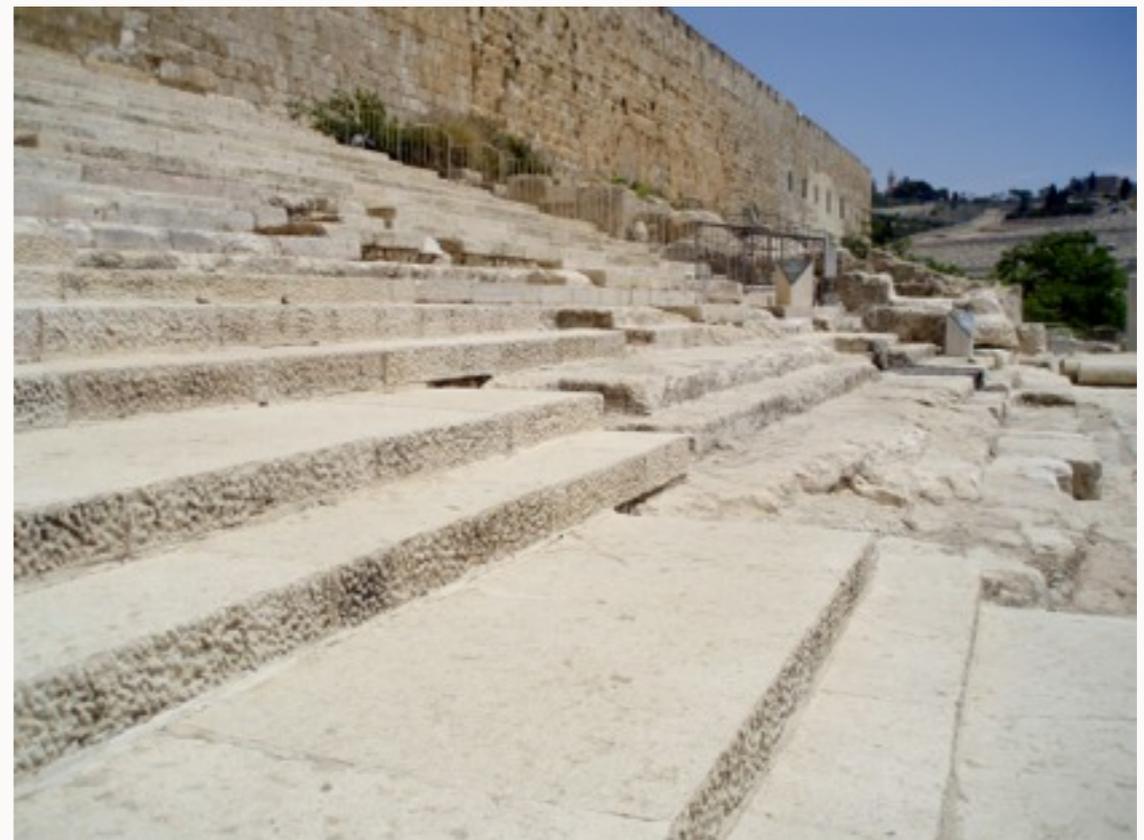
Work when the day grows brighter, work in the glowing sun;

Work for the night is coming, when man's work is done.

PROGRESS OF THE MIRACLE (6-7)

- Jesus spits on the ground and makes mud with His saliva. Why?
- Some rabbis believed that saliva of a firstborn had healing properties. But since saliva was often associated with healing practices by pagans, most rabbis condemned the use of saliva.
- Saliva would make someone ceremonially unclean, according the Jewish standards of the day.

SOUTHERN STEPS OF THE TEMPLE



STEPS AND MIKVAH



PEOPLE'S REACTION TO THE MIRACLE (8-12)

- The people are full of doubt after this miracle.
- They question whether or not this is truly the man they had known to be blind.
- His neighbors talk as if he isn't there to answer for himself.
- He explains it was done by "the man called Jesus" - implies he didn't know much about Jesus.

PRAY THAT JESUS WOULD
BRING PEOPLE TO POINT
OUT BLIND SPOTS

JOHN 9:13-41

PERPLEXITY OF THE PHARISEES (13-34)

- The Pharisees question the healed man about the genuineness of the miracle.
- The healed man moves from not knowing Jesus to professing him as Lord.
- Notice the progression: (vs. 11) man called Jesus, (vs. 17) a prophet, (27) one who might be followed by disciples, vs. 33 - from God, (vs. 38) to the Lord to be worshipped.

PERPLEXITY OF THE PHARISEES (13-34)

- In his growing faith, he indicated that the healer must have been a prophet.
- That was quite a statement of praise since John the Baptist was the first prophet in 400 years.
- And Jesus was not only a prophet but a man who was healing people throughout Israel.

PERPLEXITY OF THE PHARISEES (13-34)

- Once again we see the issue of the Sabbath. That is why they persecuted Jesus (John 5:16).
- The Jewish leaders question his parents in order to dismiss the miracle. They don't want to be forced out of the synagogue (vs. 22) so they refuse to respond and push the question onto their son.
- Excommunication in the time of Jesus was a terrible curse - finances, fellowship, religious community.

PERPLEXITY OF THE PHARISEES (13-34)

- The chapter breaks into three segments: testimony of the man, testimony of the parents, and the second testimony of the man.
- vs. 24 - “give glory to God” - this was their attempt to separate Jesus from God. This is the one thing Jesus has been attempting to establish.
- vs. 32 - never opened the eyes of a man born blind (no precedent in the Old Testament).

PERPLEXITY OF THE PHARISEES (13-34)

- The man gives a simple testimony: I was blind and now I see. It is a testimony any of us can give.
- Pharisee persecute him:
 - They hurl insults at him (“born in utter sin”)
 - They cast him out (excommunicate him)
- Jesus meets with the man once again. This is not a “drive-by” miracle.

THE PRIORITY OF FAITH (35-41)

- We see this man become a believer in Jesus.
- This seems to be the first time Jesus offered Himself as a personal object of faith. Notice that Jesus looked for the man, not the other way around.
- Chris Austin - "The Jews cast him out of the temple, and the Lord of the temple found him."
- Do you believe in the Son of Man? is followed by his simple faith: "Lord, I believe."

THE PRIORITY OF FAITH (35-41)

- Instead of faith in the Lord, the Pharisees demonstrated the futility of faith in one's self.
- John 9:39 - "those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."
- Those who recognize their spiritual blindness will be given an opportunity to see. Those who deny it will never know the light.
- Pharisee asked, "Are we also blind?"

APPLICATION

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

- Why mud?
- Jews believed that clay had some medicinal value.
- Clay depicts creation in Scripture.
- The man needed some physical symbol to encourage his faith (Gideon and the fleece). Jesus once again approaches him and encourages him to exercise his faith concerning spiritual issues.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

- Why Sabbath?
- Jesus did this to show that He was “Lord of the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:8).
- The Sabbath is for rest is. The Sabbath is for healing.
- What day could be better for God the Son to find a broken man and heal him? It would give him and his parents rest from all the struggles of blindness.

BIBLE AND DISABILITIES

- Nearly 20 percent of U.S. citizens live with some form of disability.
- Disabilities come in many forms: congenital (genetic or physical problems from birth), infectious diseases, accidents, degenerative effects of old age.
- Christians and the body of Christ need to face issues like autism, Down's syndrome, spina bifida, dementia, and alzheimer's.

BIBLE AND DISABILITIES

- The Bible does not shy away from the topics of suffering and sorrow. It is filled with biblical principles that shed light on these sufferings and sorrows.
- John 9:1 says Jesus saw him as he passed by. And the disciples saw that he saw him because they asked him the question. Jesus was not like the the priest and the Levite on the Jericho Road, who passed by on the other side.

BIBLE AND DISABILITIES

- John 9:2 - The disciples asked “who sinned?”
- This wasn't the most compassionate thing to say at the moment. Sometimes we say the wrong thing to people with disabilities or to parent with children with disabilities.
- In this case, Jesus patiently answers their questions by changing their categories.

BIBLE AND DISABILITIES

- It wasn't the man's sin or his parent's sin. It was the sin of the whole world. Romans 8:18–25 teaches that there would never be suffering if there had not been sin. Sin is the ultimate reason for all suffering.
- Lack of healing is not due to lack of faith. Paul prayed three times for his thorn in the flesh to be healed.
- “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

ROMANS 8:28

- Verse 3 - “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”
- Romans 8:28: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”
- All things - even the pain, suffering, and sorrow - can be used by God for good.

