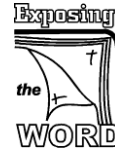




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19- The Healing of the Blind Man

John 9:1-41

There are times when men have so make up their mind that they are unable to see something that contradicts their preconceptions. By this time in the ministry of Jesus the Jewish leaders had already made up their mind that Jesus was a threat to them and they would not believe no matter how weighty the evidence would stack up that He was Messiah.

In fact they were ignoring the prophets that they claimed to be protection so feverishly. The prophet Isaiah had prophesied that Messiah would open the eyes of the blind. Notice the following.

Isa 42:7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Isa 29:18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

Isa 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

There are at least four records in the New Testament of Jesus opening the eyes of the blind. (see *Matt 9:27-31; 12:22-23; 15:30; 20:29-34; 21:14*)

We looked a couple of lecture ago that Jesus had proclaimed Himself to be the light of the world. In this section He verifies this by opening the eyes of the blind. He shows by this that He was who He claimed to be. John had proclaimed also in *John 1:4-5 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.* The reaction to Him was not unexpected, but still inexcusable.

Please notice with me a couple of things to set our text in context.

First, again the Sabbath comes into the argument. We see this in *John 9:14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.* It was against Jewish interpretation of the law to make clay on the Sabbath.

Second, this was the only record of a man born blind receiving his sight. This type miracle just did not happen. *John 9:32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.*

Finally, blindness is a picture of man's sinful condition. *2 Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

This is also evidenced by Jesus words in *John 9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. 40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*

I- The Healing:

This is the sixth of the seven sign miracles recorded for us in John.

Joh 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus, in His course of life, passes a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples chose to engage in a theological debate



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about why he was blind. They ask whose fault it was, his or his parents. **Joh 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

This was an opportunity for Christ to show that He was God. This was a verification opportunity.

Concerning the man being blind from birth, Merrill Tenney in *John: The Gospel of Belief* says:

The nature of the cause was unusual, for it was the only instance recorded where Jesus performed a miracle on a person defective from birth...Had the man's eyes been injured in some accident, slow recovery might have been unconscious, and realization of that recovery might have come at the stimulus of Jesus' touch. Had loss of sight been occasioned by hysteria, psychological factors might have effected a cure. On the contrary, the man never had possessed sight, and presumably his affliction was permanent because human skill could avail nothing.

Because of this intrinsic hopelessness the case was a favorable opportunity for divine work. (p 156)

Joh 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

He talked about working while it was day for night was coming. He again claims that He is the light of the world.

Joh 9:6 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, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went

his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

There is no clear reasoning from scholars as to why He chose to use the clay and spit. He instructs him to go wash and when the man exercised his faith his sight was not restored, because he had never seen, but was instantly given for the first time.

II- The Inquisition:

After the healing and throughout the rest of John 9 we have an inquisition to find out if the man was the same man they had seen over the years and what happened to the man. The man is interviewed by his neighbors, the Pharisees and talked about by the disciples.

It is really interesting to look and see how the man was viewed by those involved in this story. We have already seen that the disciples saw him as a theological trigger for a discussion.

John 9:8 The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? The neighbors, probably not unkind but indifferent, looked at him as a beggar. He was there as one more mouth to feed that the community had always had to care for with alms and offerings to him.

They debated if it was really the same man. **John 9:9 Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. 10 Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? 11 He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. 12 Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.** They wanted to know where Jesus was.

After they investigation they bring him to the Pharisees. **John 9:13 They brought**



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to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. 14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. 15 Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

The Pharisee saw the man as a potential tool to trap Jesus and as a witness against Him. They did not care a bit about the man and his former condition.

Again notice the division and debate that ensued about who Jesus was. The Pharisees could not see past their interpretation of the Sabbath. *John 9:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. 17 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.*

This did not convince the Pharisees; in fact they did not even believe that this man was the same man. If they believed he was the same man they would have to admit a miracle unlike any other before.

John 9:18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? 20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: 21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. 22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any

man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

The parents were afraid of being excommunicated and therefore doomed. There are many today held in the same bondage to religion. They are controlled by men for their purposes and end who stand between them and God and hold them in fear.

They did not get the answer they wanted so they call the man again.

John 9:24 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

They were so convinced that Jesus could not be from God. They knew Jesus was a sinner. Notice the reply. *John 9:25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. 26 Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?*

This is a classic example of witnessing for Christ. Tell what has happened to you. No one can argue with what you have experienced. They may argue theologically points all day but this man said I was blind and now I see. His statement was so simple yet so succinctly profound and true.

After the investigation there were some things that they all arrived at as fact. This man was born blind, that the man who professed healing was the man born blind, and that he indeed could now see. This was an opportunity to believe and embrace Jesus as Messiah and proof that He is the Light of the world.

III- The Man Rebukes Unbelief:

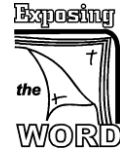
This was not working out like the Pharisees had hoped. It was going to go



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from bad to worse for them. The man was irritated that they asked the same question again wanting a different answer.

John 9:27 *He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?* He asked if he told them again would it move them to believe the witness of who Jesus was.

John 9:28 *Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.* They did not take the rebuke very well and reviled him. This work means they heaped abuse upon him. They said they were disciples of Moses and with disdain accused him of being a disciple of this man.

John 9:29 *We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.* They confess they did not know where this man named Jesus came from.

They just lost another point in the debate when the man replied. **John 9:30** *The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. 31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. 32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. 33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. 34 *They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.**

This showed their true hearts as feeling they were superior to this beggar and blind man. This shows their low view of the man. They were learned men and he of all people could not teach them about religion. We need to heed this verse that drips with

warning to us all who know the Lord to never allow our position in Christ to make us feel superior to a lost man after all we are simply sinners saved by grace.

IV- Searching out the Outcast:

The disciples saw him as a subject to be debated, the neighbors as a beggar, the Pharisees as a potential witness and then as a someone who must be put away from the temple but Jesus, dear precious Jesus, saw him as a man who needed spiritual sight as well. **John 9:35** *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

Jesus you will recall came to seek and to save the lost. Praise God for this fact. Now those of us who once were blind can see and those now blind can find sight.

V- Verification in Blind Man's Heart:

Notice the verses that show the progress of faith in the man's heart. He was blind and now had physically sight. He also gained spiritual sight as well.

John 9:11 *A man that is called Jesus made clay...*

John 9:17 *They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.*

John 9:25 *He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.*

John 9:38 *And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.* The sign verifies that Jesus was and is Messiah. He is the one who opens blind eyes.