



Sunday, March 7, 2021

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Sermon #33 from the Gospel of John

“I Once Was Blind...”

John 9:1-25 (King James Version)

Good morning, what a great day in God’s house! We had almost 100 in attendance at our 8:30 service. A lot of us have a Facebook page or some form of communication to the world. If a message really touches you that you think the world needs to hear, share it from your Facebook page. I’ve noticed some of you have hundreds or thousands of “friends.” Imagine the impact to the world if we simply shared the message through the media connection we have! So send a message out if you feel so led; we could reach 10,000 or more people just in the congregation we have here and in the streaming audience. It’s amazing to me the avenues of opportunity God has given us to put the message into the world where it’s needed.

We continue in our study of the Gospel of John, verse by verse. This New Testament book is a supreme witness to the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As John records the high points of Jesus’ ministry, he says at the end of the book there’s no way we could write down everything Jesus did—the world could not contain the books. We learn this truth from this Gospel, as well as the others, that Jesus did not lay down His robes of glory or His power in heaven to come to earth to be rich, famous, or popular. That’s not why He came—He came to be born in a barn. He came with one set of clothes, no home to call His own, carried no money. He gave up his heavenly glory and comforts to come to live with us and take on the cloak of humanity. He would walk among us as God in the flesh so He could die in the flesh for those of us who are sinners—that’s every single one of us. We need Him, and He died on the cross to give us forgiveness of our sin. He came to find His lost sheep. Praise God He came to find me! Praise God He came to find you! He died a criminal’s death and was buried in a borrowed tomb—He only needed it for three days.

We begin in Chapter 9 which deals with Jesus healing a man who was born blind. We’ll see all the “ripple” affects after the healing occurs. Let’s read verses 1-12. ¹“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. ²And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man or his parents that he was born blind? ³Jesus answered, **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. ⁴I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. ⁶When 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸The neighbors, therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind said, Is not this he that sat and begged? ⁹Some said, This is he; others said he is like him; but he said, I am he. ¹⁰Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? ¹¹He 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. ¹²Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.”**

Why did Jesus bring forth miracles? There are three reasons. (1) He simply brought a miracle to meet a human need—to heal someone from a disease or problem they had. He took care of that and improved their life completely by healing them. (2) He used that miracle to teach the truth of God. Today’s miracle will give us the truth about light. (3) Miracles were His “credentials” so to speak—they showed the world He had the

authority and power of God to bring forth a miracle. So as people saw His miracles, they saw the act of God Himself bringing forth life and healing.

So Jesus and His disciples were still in Jerusalem. It's important to note this was the Jewish sabbath day, which was Saturday. The Jews are the only group of people God gave Saturday worship to. As Christians, we worship on Resurrection Day, Sunday. Jesus walks by and noticed a man who was blind from birth; he had not seen light at all in his life. There was only one way for a blind man to make a living—sit on a street corner and beg and maybe some kind people would toss him a penny. Jesus' disciples asked Him what caused the man to be blind. Was it for a grievous sin he had done? Or did his parents sin so grievously that God had stricken their child in the womb? Jesus said this blindness is not for punishment at all; it's for God's glory, for His healing to shine forth. Sadly, physical problems, sickness, and disease are part of our human condition. When Adam and Eve were created, they were created to live eternally; they were not going to die. But the moment they fell into sin and dragged all humanity into sin, bodily problems began to happen. So one day to come, their death would come. In Old Testament times, people lived to be eight to nine hundred years—because their bodies were fashioned to be eternal. We live in a fallen creation because of sin. The blind man is not being punished by God; this is an opportunity for God to bring a miracle of grace and blessing into his life. Not just for him to see, but for all to see. Jesus said, I work the works of God, and God the Father is concerned for our healing. That was true for a blind man two thousand years ago, and is true for you and me today. The Lord God wants to heal us; He wants to bless us and shower us with His grace because we are His creation and He loves us—no matter our color, nation, background, or sin. He would not want any one of us to be parted from Him for all eternity. Jesus takes every opportunity as the Son of God to show the love and light of God before the darkness of the cross comes. In this Gospel, the cross is just days away. Praise God, we serve a living Savior and that light is still in the world today! That light shines in this sanctuary today because He is still the light of the world.

This miracle is a physical picture of spiritual light. This blind man lived in darkness all his life; Jesus was about to heal his eyes and let him see physical light for the very first time. We know this man is older; he lives away from his parents. Here's the true miracle of this passage: This man's healing comes that he will see physical light, but at the end of this Chapter he sees spiritual light. He comes to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He's physically healed; he has eyesight but he also sees the light of God with his heart. Scripture never says that Jesus spoke to him before He anointed his eyes. Without a word, Jesus spits on the dry dust of the ground, and stirs it with His finger to make clay. He then rubs this mixture on the blind man's eyes. He picks up on the fact this His name is Jesus but knows nothing about Him. He then tells him to wash in the pool of Siloam—this pool was not close by; it was on the southeast corner of Jerusalem. So the man had to make his way through the crowds to the city gate. He had to obey the word of Jesus in order to attain the healing; it was not an easy trip. If he rejected Jesus' command (it's too far, too many people to get around), would he have been healed? The answer is no. Here's a spiritual truth: When you and I know Jesus Christ as our Savior, we **will** obey His Word! We **will** obey His direction and go where He sends us. We **will** walk as He asks us and follow the truth of His Word and not step outside of it. That's our goal, our calling as men and women, boys and girls of God. The healing in this passage is based on obedience: "Go to the pool and wash."

The man goes to the pool and washes and miraculously, he comes away seeing. Remember, this man had been a public figure in Jerusalem all his life—begging on the street for pennies. Now, he's healed; people walk by, notice him, and say "Isn't this the blind man, the beggar, we've been seeing for years?" Scripture says yes, that's him; other people said that's someone who just looks like him. Verse 9 "No, it's me." When people

realize he's the former blind man, they asked a very normal question "How did that happen? How were you healed after all these years?" He said a man named Jesus made clay, put it on my eyes, told me what to do, and now I can see—simple as that! He only knew Jesus' name; he didn't know He was the Son of God, the Savior. The people then ask where is Jesus now? He says I don't know. He never saw Him after he was healed. As we move on to the rest of the passage, I remind you the scribes and Pharisees hated Jesus very much because He called them fakes. They preached the Word of God but didn't know the God of the Word.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. ¹⁴And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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. ¹⁶Therefore 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. ¹⁷They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. ¹⁸But 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. ¹⁹And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? ²⁰His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. ²¹But 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. ²²These 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. ²³Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. ²⁴Then again, called they the man that was blind and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. ²⁵He 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."

This blind man, now seeing, was brought to the Pharisees who questioned him about his healing. The man repeats all the facts—the clay, washing, etc. The Pharisees say to him, Sir, we assure you that this Jesus is not from God, he's not of God—he's a lawbreaker and a criminal. He performed a healing on the Sabbath—the day of no work, the day of no medical procedure. According to their standard, Jesus broke the law three times: (1) He spat and stirred in the dust with his finger—that was work. (2) He anointed the eyes of the blind man—that was work. (3) The healing was a medical procedure which was also not permitted on the Sabbath day. Rather than praising God for this miracle, the Pharisees pronounce Him as a lawbreaking criminal. Read verse 16. As I've preached to you over the last few weeks, these men are hardened against Jesus yet some are beginning to see the light. We pray they saw the light of Jesus as their Savior before they departed this earth. So some are beginning to be drawn to Him and to the truth of God. These men asked the man who he thought healed him; in verse 17 he says he's a man of God, a prophet. Remember, the man had not physically seen Jesus but he realizes He's more than a mere man. He's aware He has an unusual connection to the God the Father and that He could bring about this miracle so the man would be healed and see physical light. At this point, he had not accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior but he's definitely on his way.

Then the Pharisees call on the man's parents with two questions: (1) Can you confirm this is your son? (2) Do you know how he was healed? The parents confirmed he was their son, but they don't know how he was healed. We do know "he is of age" and you can ask him yourself. They're really sidestepping the question of who healed their son. Read verse 22. They realize if we say Jesus the Son of God healed our son, we will no longer be able to go into the temple or any synagogue of worship in all of Israel. We'll be excommunicated, so we're scared to give the right answer. They hid what they believed about Jesus in fear. Read verses 24-25. The man

says because of Him and Him alone, “I once was blind but now I can see.” What a beautiful testimony by a man who is coming to Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior.

As I close this sermon, may I remind you that you and I have been healed as well. At birth, we were born with a disease—sin and lostness. It’s a terminal disease, and we need healing from it. If not, we will die and according to Scripture, we’ll reside in hell for all eternity. But Jesus went to the cross to heal us. He gives us healing from that terminal disease and completely takes it away that we might live for Him and with Him. Through the cross, He anointed and forgave you and me with His blood. He took our place of death on the cross that we might be forgiven. The perfect Lamb of God died on the cross that sinners can be forgiven. Praise God, I’m one who needed forgiveness from this terminal illness and so are you! So is the world! The world needs the healing that only Jesus Christ can give. If you’re a believer, do not **ever** be ashamed to name the name of Jesus. Don’t **ever** be hesitant to give a witness on account of the Savior who gave you life. Tell people you worship Him; tell people the church you go to; tell people you want to stand up for Him in all things. I believe our world is quickly and rapidly moving to a place where Christians are going to have to stand up in courage more and more and proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord, our Savior, our King, and the one who is going to reign forever and ever.

The blind man was asked over and over to give his testimony about how he was healed and delivered from blindness. For we who are believers, you and I need a one-to-two-minute testimony of how Jesus healed us. So that when someone asks you what happened in your life, you can tell them in two minutes how He came into your heart and how you accepted Him as Savior. Every one of us should have a testimony so we can lead somebody else to the healing of the Savior because everybody needs Him and His healing. The truth from today’s Scripture is this: Be thankful, grateful, and faithful to publicly say “I once was blind, but now I see. I once was lost, but now I’m found through Jesus Christ my Savior.” The parents in today’s passage were scared to name the name, scared to give an account of the love of Jesus upon their son. Don’t ever be ashamed or fearful to name the name of your Savior. Today, as we rededicate our lives and stand in courage and if you’ve never come to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, He’s here to find you and give you spiritual light. He’s here to heal you; you came in lost and can leave being found. Wherever you are, you can go about your life today in a new way because Jesus Christ has found you in His love, grace, and salvation. If you need Him, He’s calling and asking you to come and receive Him. He died on the old rugged cross to pay the price of your forgiveness. Come right now and say “Lord Jesus, I believe You. I came to worship as a lost person but will leave being found in the love and salvation of Jesus Christ. I came in blind, but now I see.” This invitation is yours today.

Let Us Pray: Lord God, thank You for these precious moments of worship. I stand in this pulpit today to say there was a day I was blind but thank You, that today I see with Jesus as my Savior. There was a day when I was lost, but I thank You today I am found—not because of who I am or any goodness I’ve ever created in my life. It’s simply by the grace of Jesus Christ who came to find me, heal me, give me sight, give me a home. It’s all because of Jesus that I can say today I’m found because Jesus found me in His love and I gave Him my heart. Lord, if there’s one here today who needs you as Savior, they can say the same thing: “Lord Jesus, I am a sinner, I need healing, I need Your touch. I want you and accept you as my Savior. I ask You to come into my life, and I will follow You, worship You, serve You, and one day live with You in eternity. I come just as I am, baggage and all.” I pray for our brothers and sisters that we’ll all rededicate our lives to you and stand together and say “I once was blind but only because of Jesus Christ, now I see.” Bless our church as we continue to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus. In His name, we love you and pray. Amen.