

Lesson 1 – Jesus Healed a Blind Man

Text: John 9

Main Characters: God, Jesus, a blind man, Pharisees

Key Passages:

- John 9:5 – Jesus was (and is) the light of the world, revealing the truth to those who want to see it.
- John 9:33 – If Jesus were not from God, he would have been able to do anything.

Main Storyline:

As Jesus was traveling around on the Sabbath, he happened upon a man who had been blind since his birth. His disciples asked Jesus, “Who sinned, this man or his parents, to cause him to be born blind?” Jesus told them that none of them had sinned, but that he was born blind so that God’s power could be demonstrated. Jesus then told them that he needed to do God’s works while he was still in the world; for as long as he was in the world, Jesus was the light of the world.

After speaking with the disciples, he spit on the ground to make clay and put it on the blind man’s eyes. Then he told the man to wash in the pool of Siloam. After the man washed, he was able to see.

When the blind man’s neighbors and acquaintances saw that he was no longer blind, they debated if it was the same man who was previously blind and begging. The man affirmed, however, that he was that man. They asked him about how his eyesight was restored, and the man explained what Jesus had done to him and how he had been healed. The people wanted to know where Jesus was, but the man did not know.

They decided to bring the man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees again asked the man about how his eyesight had been restored. Once again, the man explained what Jesus had done for him. Upon hearing his testimony, the Pharisees began to debate amongst themselves. Some of them were saying that Jesus could not be from God because he did not keep the Sabbath (by healing the man). Others were convinced that he was from God because a sinner would not be able to perform such a miracle. They decided to ask the man what he believed about Jesus; the man told them that Jesus was a prophet.

Many of the Jews still did not believe the testimony of the man; it seems like they did not believe the man had been blind to begin with. They summoned the parents of the previously blind man and asked them about how he had been made well. The parents were afraid of the Jews because they had threatened that, if anyone were to confess that Jesus was the Christ, that person would be thrown out of the synagogue (essentially cut off from the rest of the people). Because of their fear, they offered the facts (he was born blind, but now he can see), but they would not say how he was healed. Instead, they told the Pharisees to ask their son, since he was old enough to answer for himself.

The Pharisees called the man back and asked him again about how he had been healed. The man was frustrated because he had already told them, but they had not listened. He asked them if they wanted to become his disciples. The Pharisees mocked the man, “You are his disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this man is from.” The man was amazed; how could Jesus be from anyone but God? The man said, “If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

The Pharisees had had enough of the man, so they threw him out. When Jesus heard that he had been thrown out, he found him and asked him if he believed in the Son of God. The man asked, “Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said, “You have both seen him and it is he who is talking to you.” The man said, “Lord, I believe!” and worshipped Jesus. Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into the world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” The Pharisees asked Jesus if they were blind. Jesus told them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see,’ therefore, your sin remains.” While the Pharisees could see physically, they failed to see that Jesus was the Christ of God.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) Unfortunate things are often not a result of sin, but opportunities for God’s power to be shown.
- 2.) We must not be blind to the power of God that is on display all around us (Romans 1:16-22).