

# John 9 - Blindness of Another Kind

Joh 9:1-7 ESV 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.**

## The man was blind from birth

- **The blind man** - blind from birth - a **beggar** (see v 8) - **hopeless**
- **The parents** - ??two decades?? of **suffering** & perhaps questioning God (carry stigma - my fault?)
- **The disciples** - **BLIND** could only see two possibilities (SOMEONE SINNED - the parents? the child?)

## A **BLINDNESS** of "seeing" the divine option

- (bow and worship or thrown into the fire - (**How 'bout if the Lord enters the fire with them?**)
- (be drown in the sea, or die by the sword of Pharaoh - (**How 'bout the LORD splits open the sea?**)
- Jesus opened the eyes of the disciples to SEE another option
- (Open your eyes there's another possibility)...**"that the works of God might be displayed in him"**

## **That the works of God might be displayed in him**

- This was **why He WAS BORN BLIND...**"that the works of God might be displayed in him"
- Before the work of God there was suffering - **THEY HAD NO IDEA THE LORD WOULD HEAL HIM**
- Before the work of God there were years of wondering / loss of hope - He will be a blind beggar
- Before the work of God there was the struggle with the "cause and effect" (Did my sin cause it?)

## **Two things about the Work of God that we must know (you might ask **WHY**he didn't heal him sooner)**

- Deut 32:4 ESV "The Rock, **his work is perfect**, ..... (the work, the timing, the fashion)
- Acts 15:18 KJV **Known unto God are all his works** from the beginning of the world.
- This DATE for this healing was KNOWN by the LORD from the beginning of the world

## **Lessons:**

1. God is still at work in the earth - and his WORK and TIMING are PERFECT
2. The work that He will YET do is **KNOWN** to Him and has been known since **before** the world began
3. Who is to say that your suffering may be for the work of God to be manifest in you at some point
4. Can you trust Him even if you are in the midst of suffering?
5. Can you ask the LORD for a new perspective (to open my eyes to see things from HIS vantage point)

## A **BLINDNESS** toward the idea that He wants us to work the **WORKS** of HIM

- In Vs 4 Jesus said "*We must work the works of him*" ---- He includes US (these are the works OF God)
- Joh 4:34ESV Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and **to accomplish his work.**
- Joh 14:12 ESV "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will **also do the works that I do**; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

## His works are known from BEFORE the beginning of the world - EVEN THE ONES FOR YOU

- Eph 2:10 ESV For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, **which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**
  - Think of Peter and John at the gate beautiful --
    - Two men at a place in time, for the works of God to be performed
  - Think of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch - led by the spirit to lead a man to Christ
  - Think of Peter in Cornelius' house - a whole family came to Jesus
  - I wonder what works of God are on the calendar for you -- prepared ahead of time

Jesus OPENS OUR EYES to this - "WE MUST WORK THE WORKS OF HIM" - don't stay blind to it

## A BLINDNESS of procrastination "Work while it is light"

- Maybe he is only speaking of procrastination... They didn't have electricity - **work while it is day**
- Maybe its because we don't SEE the urgency of the time we live in - we are procrastinate, then we die

Act 13:36 ESV For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,

Act 20:24 NIV However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

Remove the blindness of procrastination or \_\_\_\_\_

## These people failed to receive the full blessing of the work of God

### Blindness of UNBELIEF - the neighbors

- Joh 9:8-12 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?"

### Blindness of SPIRITUAL PRIDE - the Pharisees - Jesus didn't follow their rules of the Sabbath)

- 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "**This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.**" But others said, "**How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?**" And there was a division among them.

### Blindness of the FEAR OF MAN - the parents

- Joh 9: 20 **His parents answered**, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that **if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ**, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) 23 Therefore his parents said, "**He is of age; ask him.**"

## One thing I do know - I WAS BLIND - NOW I SEE

Joh 9:24-27 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "**Give glory to God.** We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. **One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.**"

- You can't really refute a testimony - all the HOW's, the WHY's, Sabbath or not, OPINIONS didn't matter THE WORK OF GOD WAS DONE IN HIM - seems like He was the only one in this story that was not blind

## The works of God opened this man's heart to the Gospel "you have SEEN him"

Joh 9:35-38 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "**You have seen him,** and it is he who is speaking to you." 38 He said, "**Lord, I believe,**" and he worshiped him.

- He saw Him with PHYSICAL vision
- **But He SAW Him as the Son of Man - and his life was changed FOREVER**

## The greatest blindness of all

Joh 9:39-41 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that **those who do not see may see,** and **those who see may become blind.**" 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but **now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.**

### **To the church of Laodicea**

Rev 3:15-17 ESV "I know your **works:** you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, **not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind,** and naked.

Perhaps this is why Jesus didn't heal the man sooner - maybe there was a work that needed to be done in his life so that ON THIS DAY - His Spiritual Eyes could be opened, and he could receive eternal life...

- Joh 6:28-29 ESV Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.**"

### SUMMARY

- Open our eyes to see the divine option
- Open our eyes to see the call of God to DO THE WORKS OF HIM
- Open our eyes to see the shortness of time - number our days so we may have a heart of wisdom
- Open our eyes to see anything that keeps us from embracing the works of Him
  - Unbelief, Spiritual Pride, Fear of Man
- Open our eyes IF WE ARE NOT TEACHABLE - if we say "WE SEE" when there is something more He wants us to see - don't be afraid to LEARN