

Morning Sermon July 1, 2018
"What A Difference!" John 9:8-12

Raindrops keep falling on my head
And just like the guy whose feet are too big for his bed
Nothing seems to fit
Those raindrops are falling on my head, they keep falling...
B.J. Thomas

What a difference you made in my life, what a difference you made in my life! You're my Sunshine day and night, what a difference you made in my life! B.J. Thomas

1. He is hardly recognized – (and it's a good thing!)

Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"⁹ Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." (John 9:8-9 NKJ)

1. He is not recognized because now he is moving and not begging! Now obviously he can see –

... One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." (John 9:25 NKJ)

Hello Arnie, this girl said to me ... I said, "Do I know you?" "Yes, you do" she said... laughing ... "I am _____". I have lost more than 100 pounds." Oh, how different she looked!

Christ always makes a difference in those He saves; not always physical, but always spiritual and moral:

2. We are new creations –

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJ)

3. We have new eyes, we should be able to see God's Kingdom –
Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

A. *This was the most immediate change I saw, I understood the Bible, with it, my entire life had direction and meaning*

- **"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)**
- *You start by seeing God's Kingdom, you continue by seeking it –*

*"Saddle up your horses, we've got a trail to blaze
Through the wild blue yonder of God's amazing grace
Let's follow our leader into the glorious unknown
This is a life like no other, whoa, whoa this is the great adventure!"
Steven Curtis Chapman*

- *We are to seek His kingdom, and live for His glory –*
Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJ)

"The glory of God is the silver thread which must run through all our actions." Thomas Watson

B. *Yet there is ALWAYS something new with Christ –*
And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. (John 1:16 NKJ)

I don't believe a person can adequately explore and experience Disney in a day. Christ's fullness and His Kingdom are an eternal adventure! This blind man's adventure had only just begun when Christ opened his eyes, He was a NEW MAN, with a NEW LIFE!

C. *The things we have in Christ are things an ungodly world does not see or desire –*

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJ)

4. We should aim to grow –

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:2-3 NKJ)

This man knew Christ's name, Jesus, but He did not know where He was - Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." (John 9:12 NKJ)

II. He is enabled to see, walk, live –

He was known for sitting a begging, but now ...

"Is not this he who sat and begged?"⁹ Some said, "This is he. " Others said, "He is like him."

The reason they are not sure it is him is he is different, he is SEEING, he is MOVING, ultimately, he will accomplish things!

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)

Apart from Christ = NOTHING

With Christ = Much Fruit And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Eph. 5:2 NKJ)

Without God he is sitting and begging, with God, God's people -

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isa. 40:31 NKJ)

- 1. Renew their strength*
- 2. Mount up with wings*
- 3. Run without tiring*
- 4. Walk without fainting*
- 5. SEE what power we have available to us, to open our spiritual eyes, the same power this man had, the same power which is the POWER of Christ's resurrection! Let us PRAY –*

do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 1:16-20 NKJ)

6. Consider how we WALK when we walk with true spiritual vision and empowered by God's resurrection power –

A. A worthy walk -

... walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (Ephesians 4:1 NKJ)

B. A different walk because we are not walking in the dark, in blindness -

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, (Eph. 4:17-20 NKJ)

C. Walking in unselfish love, as Christ did –

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Ephesians 5:2 NKJ)

D. Walk in the light -

For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8 NKJ)

E. Walk carefully, circumspectly –

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (Ephesians 5:15-18 NKJ)

III. When you do all these things, credit Christ –

Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"¹¹ He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." (John 9:10-11 NKJ)

- 1. Verse :12 tells us this man did not know where Christ was.*
- 2. However, he did know what Christ did!*
- 3. Later he knows Who Christ is – John 9:35-38*

Arnold A. Brevick