

Lighthouse Bible Church

September 15th, 2013

John 9: 6 – 12 *Scripture Reading Matthew 12: 9 - 14*

‘Healing Physical and Spiritual Blindness’

Stand – Read – Pray

We began looking at Chapter 9 last week and got through Verses 1 – 5 and saw that after Jesus left the temple He comes across this man who was blind from birth.

This caused the disciples to ask the prevailing thoughts of the time ‘who sinned, this man or his parents?’ And we saw last time that although some sickness, disease and death may be the result of our sin, that is not always the case and we looked at several examples on both sides.

In this particular case of the blind man, Jesus tells His disciples that neither the man nor his parents had sinned in such a way to cause this blindness but that God would be glorified in the healing of this man.

We left of last time by Jesus telling His disciples that He and they must be doing the work of God while they still are able to. We looked at that in some detail and saw the application for our own lives today as we were challenged with what work we are doing for the Lord while we are still able.

Now we are going to see another miracle recorded by John that Jesus does and that is the healing of a man who was born blind and has never seen a day in his life. And that is where we pick it up in Verse 6.

Verse 6: when He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

It says ‘when He had said these things’, specifically that He was the light of the world, linking that with what He is about to do, He is going to bring absolute light to this blind man’s eyes; notice how Jesus does this.

He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

It is interesting what Jesus does here in order to make this blind man see. I went through every new testament passage where Jesus heals someone who is blind and in every instance that I found Jesus always touched the eyes of the blind person. There are some passages that don’t say whether He touched them or not, it just says He healed their blindness. *Reason why*

And in this case, He too touches this man as He prepares to heal him and He touches him in a most unusual way. He spits on the ground and makes clay with His saliva and then puts it on the eyes of this blind man.

Several Jewish historians and ancient writers talk about the medicinal value of saliva applied to the eyes of someone, but never of a blind person. I am not sure how much medicinal value there would be with a bunch of wet dirt in your eyes.

But what Jesus does here and the way He does it becomes important for several reasons. One reason is that this healing, you remember from Verse 14, is occurring on (what) a Sabbath day. And we have seen, in the past, some of the ridiculous rules they have for keeping the Sabbath.

Well, one of the Sabbath laws was that you could not make any medication or apply any medication to make anyone better or heal them on the Sabbath day. You could maintain their degree of health but you could not make them better or heal them on the Sabbath day; because that would be considered work. *review*

Remember the man with the withered arm who came into the synagogue, on the Sabbath day in **Matthew 12 :9 – 14** *look and review*.

If you walk more than 1000 feet from your home on the Sabbath day you violated the law and could be punished. That is why they stopped the man whom Jesus healed at the pool of Bethesda in John 5: 10, because he was walking a carrying his bed, which was lifting something that weighed more than a dried fig so that was work on the Sabbath. Jesus told the blind man to leave where he was at and go to the pool of Siloam and wash, which would have been more than 1000 feet.

Jesus may have healed this blind man in this way because He wanted the people and in particular the religious leaders to know that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. He wanted them to know that He is Lord of the Sabbath and that their ridiculous rules were part of a man made system of religion that does not please God. If a person took a bath, opinions are divided, whether the whole body should be dried at once, or limb after limb. If water had fallen on the dress, some allowed the dress to be shaken but not wrung; other, to be wrung but not shaken. One Rabbi allowed to spit into the handkerchief, and that although it may necessitate the compressing of what had been wetted; but there is a grave discussion whether it was lawful to spit on the ground, and then to rub it with the foot, because thereby the earth may be scratched. Then Jesus puts this mud/clay all over his eyes and then tells him in Verse 7

Verse 7: and He said to Him ‘go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is translated sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

So Jesus puts this clay all over this blind man's eyes and tells him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. Can you imagine this blind man trying to even find his way to this pool and with all this mud on his face?

But he does it, whether it is with the help of someone else or on his own, he makes it to the pool of Siloam, which means sent, and washes his face and is suddenly able to see.

Why did Jesus send Him to Siloam? Why didn't He send him to a closer water source or just say 'open your eyes' and let him see? Well, first of all, the pool of Siloam was the same pool that the priests used during the Feast of Tabernacles to fill the golden cup and pour on the altar as a reminder of God's provision of water for the wilderness wanderings of Israel.

This pool, located in Jerusalem, was fed by a spring up on the temple mount high above the city of Jerusalem where the temple was. It was built by Hezekiah and was underground to feed from the spring to the pool and would be undetected by any enemy wanting to attack the city. One of the things an enemy would usually do is cut off the water supply. *In Daniel 5: 26 – 30 Belshazzar lost kingdom to Medes and Persians through lowering their water source flowing through the city.*

So this water was 'sent' from the temple mount spring to the pool in which this man was told to wash. Think about this: the temple mount is the place where God is represented and the water from the pool of Siloam represents that which was sent from God that also represented His blessing and provision.

So what Jesus is saying to this physically blind man is 'go and wash in the pool of Siloam, the water sent by God, that will cleanse you and make you see'.

Now think about this: If someone were to be healed from their SPIRITUAL blindness, they would have to go to the One SENT (Siloam) by God, and who is that, Jesus, the living water. Remember what Jesus said in **John 7: 37 – 38 if anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**

The true water pouring from God is none other than Jesus Himself sent from God, what a beautiful symbolism for this man and the reason Jesus sent him to that pool. So he goes to the pool and washes and immediately he can see. Can you imagine what it would have been like for him at that moment?

Then it says at the end of Verse 7 **so he went and washed and came back seeing.** Well, where did he ‘come back’ to? It wasn’t to Jesus because they asked him where Jesus is and he tells them in Verse 12 ‘I don’t know’.

You know where he came back too? To his family, to his neighborhood, to those people he knew and grew up with. Look at Verse 8. Now how he gets there we are not told and how he would know where to go we are not told. He is able to see and he somehow finds some neighbor friends. Look at Verse 8.

Verse 8: therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said ‘is not this he who sat and begged?’ Remember we had talked about that before, that is what many of the lame, maimed and blind would do.

They are shocked to see this man walking around and able to see and so they ask the question of each other ‘isn’t this the blind guy who sat and begged all the time?’

Verses 9 - 10: some said ‘this is he’. Other said ‘he is like him’. He said ‘I am he’. Therefore they said to him ‘how were your eyes opened’.

Verse 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 my sight’. Verse 12: then they said to him ‘where is He?’ He said ‘I do not know’.

He didn't know where Jesus was at or who He was for that matter, but they would meet again and this time his spiritual eyes would be opened. Remember how we said earlier that many times in scripture there is a beautiful illustration of someone whose physical blindness is healed is compared to the healing of someone's spiritual blindness.

Well, think about this: this blind man is healed and he goes to his home and to his neighborhood and he is barely recognizable to some because he has been physically healed and changed, he is not the same person they remember.

What about you? When your spiritual eyes were opened and like 2nd Corinthians 5: 17 says you became a new creation, old things were passed away, all things became new, did and do people see a difference in you. I like what 1st Peter 4: 2 – 4 says about someone being saved and their life changing and then those that knew them **think it strange that you do not do the same things you used to and they speak evil of you.**

Or is your Christianity so well concealed or you are so much like the world in what you say and do that they don't see any difference at all? He was not recognizable because of his change physically and what he was doing that he didn't do before, and we should be the same way. People ought to be saying to us ‘what happened to you’.

If you are still spiritually blind because of your sin, remember what **John 1: 3** said? **All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made**

that was made. He made your physical eyes to see the light of day. He is the only one who can put spiritual light into your soul and save you from your sin.

This healing of the blind man is a wonderful illustration of God's sovereign plan of salvation. Because everyone who is spiritually blind in unbelief can not believe apart from God opening their spiritual eyes. They are like **John 12: 39 – 40** which says **therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them.**

That is why 2nd Corinthians 4: 4 says whose minds the God of this age has blinded who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine of them.

The only way your spiritual eyes of unbelief can be opened is by the gospel of Jesus Christ and the sovereign power of God opening your spiritually blind eyes. You have no capacity to open your own blind eyes, only the miracle of salvation by God through Christ and His saving gospel message can do that.

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An unusual healing method

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Verse 7:

The Significance of the Pool of Siloam

Daniel 5: 26 – 30

John 7: 37 – 38

Verses 8 – 12:

2nd Corinthians 5: 17

1st Peter 4: 2 – 4

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