

## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

### GFT-22 "FROM BLINDNESS TO SIGHT"

Geof W. Jackson, Instructor HomeChurch Bible Class

[geofj@homechurchok.com](mailto:geofj@homechurchok.com)

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JOHN 9:3-4 *Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."<sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.*

In JOHN 9 we are presented with the account of the healing of the blind man in Jerusalem. This is certainly one of the most familiar healing events in Jesus' ministry. In this Session, we will cover the details of the healing itself. Our next Session will cover the controversy that resulted from a blind man being healed (*who could disagree with that?*).

Jesus' ministry of healing was a result of the fact that He was a man anointed by the Holy Spirit. Yet at times, He also used these events to support that He was a "man sent from God" with a mission to accomplish... showing that He WAS the MESSIAH. On many occasions, this resulted with a declaration by the recipients that Jesus was "THE LORD."

#### "I KNOW HIM... You Do Not"

8:55) *But you have not known Him. I KNOW Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you... but I DO KNOW Him and I keep His word.*

8:56) *Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.*"

- In some way, the "True Message of Salvation" was revealed to Abraham through God's repetitive visits and reminders of the Promise

GAL 3:8 *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the Nations be blessed."*

GEN 12:1-3 *Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."<sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and (I will) make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

GEN 15:4-6

GEN 17:4-7

GEN 22:13-14 *And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.<sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."*

- "The LORD will Provide" – JEHOVAH-JIREH (Yahweh-Jireh) "I AM YOUR PROVISION"
- It is NOT that "The Lord WILL SEE that there is a provision"
- The truth as illustrated is that HE IS THE PROVISION ... WE are Isaac... The Ram is JESUS

8:57) *So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"*

8:58) *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."* Gen 12:1-3

8:59) *So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.*



## A MAN BORN BLIND

**JOHN 9:1-4** As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

It seems that this “Healing Event” occurred during that same period when Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (**JOHN 7:1 - 10:21**) The tension between Jesus and the Jewish Leaders was increasing as Jesus continued to minister to the crowds regarding His Mission and His Authority as **“THE SON OF MAN” [MESSIAH]**. The Leaders continued to attempt to discredit Jesus at every opportunity... doing their best to influence the opinion of the crowds. However, the crowds continued to be impressed by Him.

Somewhere in the city, probably in the vicinity of the Temple where the man could more easily beg, Jesus came upon a blind man.

**9:1) As [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.**

- **“He saw...”** It wasn’t just seeing... Jesus was ever engaged with the assistance of the Holy Spirit to be alert to what God may be desiring Him to do...always ready...always willing... **ARE WE??**
- **“Blind from birth...”** As a child he would have been cared for by his parents. Now as an adult he seems to have been left on his own, as his parents seem to have little concern for him (**vs18-23**). He was therefore left at the Temple or City Gates to beg from the visitors who came to worship at the Temple, or do business in the city.

**9:2) And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”**

- **“Who Did Sin... that he was born blind?”** – These words betray a callous view of the tragedies of human existence. **“IF someone is experiencing “suffering” it MUST be because of their sins...”**  
As if some / or ALL who suffer or are oppressed deserve the “fate” that is theirs...
  - It was their natural response / the popular “theology of the day”
  - Unfortunately, this is also a common “theology” of our time
- **“This man or his parents...”** - **In all the history of ridiculous questions this must be near the top**  
**Surely, somehow, the disciples thought THIS was the right thing to say... This man is sitting begging, probably filthy, looking up at Jesus... And THIS is what come to their minds????**
  - The issue is not **“WHY”** is he blind?
    - **HIS sins...** – A theology prevalent, even today, that says our sicknesses, infirmities, are there to “teach” us as a “lesson” from God.
      - #1 THAT is never taught in Scripture... Certainly, yes, sin did often have terrible results, but these followed the sin...they did not precede it!
      - #2 The problem, here, is that he was **BORN** that way...
      - SO... are they saying, “God **made** him blind **because he was GOING to sin...?**” **NO!!!!**  
*I trust you can see how ridiculous that is... but some believe it to this day*
    - **His PARENTS sin...** -
      - Believing that the **“sickness and infirmity”** of their children was a **“punishment from God”** for the sin of the parents

- BUT... ALL sin... so why are not ALL children born this way?
- AND... what about “repentance and forgiveness” – Is there NO place for those?
- WHAT are the lessons that are to be learned? When is the punishment enough? What about EZEKIEL 18:20?

*“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”*

- The REAL issue is “WHAT” will JESUS do to CHANGE the man’s condition?
- God’s purpose in Jesus is summed-up in ACTS 10:38  
*ACTS 10:38 “...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”*
- The passage makes the “Doctrine of Scripture” very clear:
  - Sickness and oppression are the work of the devil...
  - Healing and deliverance are the work of God...

9:3) *Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.*

*“But because of his blindness, you will see God work a miracle for him.” (Contemporary English Version)*

- *“Neither... [No... It was not] that this man sinned or his parents...”*
  - Jesus would not let their question go unanswered... This needed to be addressed –
  - Thank God, it was Jesus they were questioning, or they all would have walked away feeling “pity” but only interested in their own pursuit of, “why?”
  - What would Jesus do? What work would He perform?
  - Without asking / delay / hesitation...
  - He showed us God’s Work... To Heal / Deliver / Restore / Rescue / Revive / SAVE
- *““But that the works of God might be revealed in him...” Energies – work that produces results...*
  - It was not that God made Him blind so that Jesus could heal him... {A Kingdom divided...}
  - His blindness would present an opportunity to SHOW God’s work... His desire... His mercy...

9:4) *We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

*As long as it is day, we must do what the one who sent me wants me to do. When night comes, no one can work. (Contemporary English Version)*

- As long as Jesus was in the earth, He MUST continue to do the works of His Father [We...]
- When he was gone from the earth [in the grave] there would be NO works...

9:4) *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 <sup>7</sup> and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So, he went and washed and came back seeing.*

➤ *He spat... made clay”*

- He showed His “contempt” for the ground which had been cursed as a type of man’s sin bringing all manner of sorrow, sickness, and death upon the earth...
- He turned what was “cursed” into what was “blessed” – *reversing the curse...*

➤ *“Anointed eyes...” He changed the “cursed ground” into a “healing agent” –*

- “All creation waits to be released from the curse” – [ROM 8:20-22]
- Ground to Medicine / Water to Wine / Bread to Renewed Flesh / Blood to Life / Oil to Power

➤ *So, he went and washed and came back seeing...*

ISAIAH prophesied that in “Messianic Times” (Jesus’ Life and The Millennium) various signs would occur. The Messiah would “*open eyes that are blind*” (ISA. 42:7; ISA. 29:18; 35:5). In fulfilling, in part, these prophecies, Jesus often healed the blind (MATT. 9:27-31; 12:22-23; 15:30; 20:29-34; 21:14).

AND everyone rejoiced that a blind man had been healed... EXCEPT for the Jewish Leaders...