

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-23 "LORD, I BELIEVE"

Geof W. Jackson, Instructor HomeChurch Bible Class

geofj@homechurchok.com

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JOHN 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.*

*[Last week I mentioned that I would be covering the subject of "Generational Curses." However, after consideration I realize that teaching "may" take more than one Session, as it includes teaching all of **Ezekiel 18**. Therefore, I will cover that subject when we return from The Christmas break.]*

JOHN 9 presents one of the most well-known Healing Events of Jesus Ministry. That Jesus would "**create**" sight for a man born blind is truly awe-inspiring. But beyond the miracle there is also the astonishing account of the Jewish Leaders reaction. They refused to accept it. Even after "3" repetitions of the testimony of the healed man, they just would not "**allow themselves**" to believe. Assuredly, this was partially an attempt to get the crowds to doubt it too. It almost becomes amusing.

This man's repeated testimony, and the reaction of the Leaders provides another occasion for John to present the truth of **Jesus Deity and Messiahship**. Yet, the hardness of the Leaders' hearts does not frustrate Jesus, nor the man. All of this leads to a glorious proclamation of faith.

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)

- The "WE" is somewhat of a "play on words" ...
 - Jesus AND The Father worked...

JOHN 5:17 *"But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is working until now, and I am working.'"*

JOHN 4:34 *"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.'"*
 - Jesus DID what His Father sent him to do...

JOHN 5:36 *"But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me."*
- As long as Jesus was in the earth, He MUST continue to do the works of His Father
- When he was gone from the earth [*in the grave*] there would be NO works...

*"As long as I am in the world, **I am the Light of the World.**"*

- **JOHN 1:4** *In him was **Life**, and the **Life** was the **Light** of men.*
- **JOHN 1:9** *The **True Light**, which gives light [*Spiritual Life*] to everyone, was coming into the world.*

- **JOHN 8:12** Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the **Light of the World**. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the **Light of Life**.”

9:6-7) Having said these things, [Jesus] **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.

➤ He **spat... made clay**”

- “**Spitting**” was a way of showing **“contempt”** for a person or a thing... *it was an insulting response to what was vile or offensive*
- He showed His **“contempt”** for the **“sin of Adam”** by which the ground had been cursed ... *bringing all manner of sorrow, sickness, and death upon the earth...*
- Jesus 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, [the man] **went and washed and came back seeing...**

- ISAIAH prophesied that in “Messianic Times” (**Jesus’ Life and The Millennium**) signs would occur.
- The Messiah would **“open eyes that are blind”** (ISA. 42:7; ISA. 29:18; 35:5).
- In fulfilling partial fulfillment of 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...

9:8) Then **the neighbors** and those who had seen him before, **that he was blind**, said, *Is this not he who was sitting and begging?*

- It is his friends who first refuse to accept the miracle... follow the **“they’s”**

9:9) **Some** said, “This is he...” **Others** said, “He only looks like him...” But, he said, **I am he**.

9:10) Then **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.’ And going and washing, I received sight.”**

- The man presents a full testimony of what happened. He is NOT ashamed to declare the miraculous work that was done. *We can be sure there was incredible excitement in his voice...*

9:12-13) Then **they said** to him, *Where is he?* He said, **“I do not know.”** **They brought him** who once was **blind to the Pharisees**.

- *“Hey, you know that guy who said you were of you father the Devil the other day... Well, he just healed a blind man.”*
- The “Fear” of the Pharisees was somewhat justifiable ...
- They **cannot let this bring trouble** to them... *there are consequences...* [See vs22]

9:14) And **it was a Sabbath** when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

Of the 27 Healing Miracles of Jesus, "8" were on a SABBATH DAY

9:15) Then again, the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said to them, He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see.

9:16) Therefore some of the Pharisees said, This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath. Others said, How can a man, a sinner, do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

- He does not keep the Sabbath – Here the issue is about making “mud” – a violation of a Rabbinical regulation [not a Biblical Law]
- How can a man ... do such miracles – It IS the right question... but for the wrong reason!

9:17) They said [the Pharisees] to the blind man again, What do you say about him, for he has opened your eyes? He said, "He is a prophet."

- The man's initial assumption was that only a "man from God... a Prophet" could do this kind of miracle

9:18-19) But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of him having received sight. ¹⁹ And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, whom you say was born blind? How then does he now see?

- They would not even accept that he HAD been blind...
- "You say... How then..." - How arrogant is “unbelief”? Hard hearts...like the clay Jesus used
- Do they think the man was just “faking” his blindness as a means to beg for money?

9:20-21) His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. ²¹ But by what means he now sees we do not know. Or who has opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age, ask him. He will speak for himself.

9:22-23) His parents spoke these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

²³ Therefore his parents had said, He is of age, ask him.

9:24) Then a second time they called the man who was blind and said to him, Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.

- "Give glory ONLY to God... NOT to this sinner..."
- "We KNOW" – Now they have turned their question into a formal accusation... – This is so much like the world... ready always to issue judgment upon God, Jesus, and the Scriptures

9:25) He answered and said, Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that being blind, now I see.

9:26) They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

- You just have to love this man's boldness... It is a GOOD model for us to follow

9:28-29) And **they reviled him**, saying, "**You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.**"²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, **we do not know where he comes from.**"

9:30-33) The man answered, "**Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.**"³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but **if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.**³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.³³ **If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.**"

A Frustrated Testimony...

vs11) "A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, Go to the pool of Siloam and wash. And going and washing, I received sight." [29 words]

vs15) "He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see." [12 words]

vs25) "... being blind, now I see." [5 words]

vs30) "...he opened my eyes." [4 words]

9:34) **They** answered him, "**You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?**" **And they cast him out.**

9:35) **Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"**

"They cast him 'out of the Temple'... The Lord of the Temple 'found him'" – John Chrysostom

9:36) He answered, "**And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?**"

- A true plea of honesty... humility... and desire

9:37) Jesus said to him, "**You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.**"

9:38) He said, "**Lord, I believe,**" and he worshiped him.

- A true response of faith... and bold recognition of Jesus Deity and Messiahship

9:39) Jesus said, "**For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.**"

9:40-41) **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.**"

- Don't ask the question IF you don't want the answer...
- **IF you WERE blind...** – Jesus will "open the eyes of those who admit they are blind" that they may have spiritual sight...and receive forgiveness"
- **You say, We SEE..."** – Those who arrogantly profess they "SEE" will find NO spiritual sight and will remain in their sin

REV 3:17-18 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, **not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.**¹⁸ I counsel you to **buy from me** gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, **and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.**