

Episode #1-36 - When the Blind Man Saw

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. The Lord, on the way out of the temple where His enemies wanted to kill Him, stopped to discuss a certain blind man with His disciples. John 9:1-7.

- A. V.1. Passing by = through those who want to stone him! Yet He is not hurried. This man not blind by mishap or disease, but from birth.
- B. V.2. They thought infirmities were all caused by sin. This was a problem if one was born handicapped. Some believed in prenatal sin, others that parents must have sinned
- C. V.3. Neither was true. He was blind to reveal the works of God. This was the purpose, not the cause. Their argument was based on a false premise.
- D. The healing of the blind man is the sixth sign in John. Corresponds with the third sign of the lame man. Both are connected with man's sin (here, he did not sin, there, the lame man did sin.) The Lord instigated both healings. In both cases the man did not know where the Lord had gone after the healing, the lame man even Who He was.
- E. V.4. Even in a hostile crowd! Why during the day? Night is coming. What work cannot be done? Manifest miracles. No longer can be worked in dispensation of grace. Miracles today are always veiled – Otis Q. Sellers.
- F. V.5. As long as He was in the world, He was its light. Now, that light is in Scripture.
- G. V.6. Why spit and clay? Gen. 2:7. The Lord is the Creator! John 1:3.
- H. V.7. Wash in pool of Siloam=sent=*apostello*=authorized. Naaman, II Kings 5.

III. The blind man and the neighbors. John 9:8-13.

- A. V.8. He walks differently now that he can see. This throws off his neighbors.
- B. V.9. Some recognized him, some didn't. Small changes make a difference. How much greater an unexpected change like this! He is the same man.
- C. V.10. Astonishing! The obvious next question: how did he regain his sight?
- D. V.11. He repeats the story simply and accurately. Many try to embellish what God has done for them today. This does not truly honor Him.
- E. V.12. Why did they want to know? Who knows? But the Lord is long since gone.
- F. V.13. They bring him to the Pharisees. Maybe want their "expert" opinion.

IV. The seeing blind man and the blind Pharisees. John 9:14-17.

- A. V.14. Making clay thought unlawful on Sabbath day. Also healing when not critical.
- B. V.15. Again, he repeats the story simply and honestly. Some cannot repeat a story without embellishing it. Blind man not expecting this!
- C. V.16. His testimony throws them into division. It seems clear they would have been happier if the man was still blind!
- D. V.17. They turn to the man. He thinks the Lord is a prophet. This idea was the best he could do with his limited knowledge.

VII. Conclusion: The Lord and his apostles worked miraculous healings during the day, but we live in the night when no man can work such healings. The healing of the blind man was an amazing miracle, but it took place on the Sabbath day, so the Pharisees were loath to accept it as legitimate. Let us look clearly at the Lord's work among us, and not be blinded by our own ideas or prejudices. We must see the truth of what God is doing among us, as set forth in His Word.