

30. The Blind Will See

John 9

INTRODUCTION → Preached on this passage a few years ago as well

- Feast of Booths: holiday to remember how they lived in tents in the wilderness
- As part of this festival, four huge torches were lit. As high as the walls of the temple (60').
- Standing before those torches, the day after the end of the festival (John 7:2), John 8 records an exchange between Jesus and the Jews (light of the world)
 - Standing in front of those torches he says, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (John 8:12)
- If that was enough to get everyone upset, but he didn't care. He kept pushing...
 - He went on to say that they were from their father the Devil
- They start to argue until, he claims to be the Great I AM
- In John, you have miracle and teaching or teaching and then miracle

What does the story say? John 9

John 9:1-5, [1] As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. [2] And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" [3] Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. [4] We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. [5] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

- People regarded this man as an unsolved riddle. They showed no interest in helping the man, but in discussing the cause for his condition, but Jesus humanizes him.
- Jesus is dismissive, as if to say, "That is a meaningless conversation to even have. It's a misguided question. This man is blind so that God can show his power at work in him."
 - You can squander years digging bottomless pits of answerless questions

John 9:6-12, [6] 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 [7] and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

[8] The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" [9] Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." [10] So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" [11] He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." [12] They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

- The blind beggar, trying to make his day's wage, hears Jesus' speech in the distance
 - Jesus starts to draw close. His disciples talk about him as if he is wall decor.
 - Does he sense Jesus nearby as he leans in?

- What must be going through his mind as Jesus, without explanation, spits on the ground, makes mud and puts it on his face?
- Does he think that Jesus is mocking him, like all the others?
- The scriptures don't share much. Jesus sends him (to the pool called sent) We are told that he obeys Jesus... he gets up and goes, washes and comes back... seeing
 - Imagine... His heart pounds faster and faster as he stumbles to the pool...
 - Is this the man, Jesus? The one of whom he has heard stories? Could it be true?
 - People snicker at him w/ mud on his face, but he isn't worried about that
 - He slips into the pool, scrubs, cracks of light begin to spill forth...
 - As he opens his eyes, light and colors burst forth → for the FIRST time ever
 - **The "Light of the World" has brought light and color to his darkness.**
- As he runs home, people recognize him and are astounded! Let's tell the leaders to party!

John 9:13-17, [13] They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. [14] Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. [15] So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." [16] Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. [17] So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

- The pharisees are very concerned - not with how they will celebrate - but with the fact that this healing occurred on the sabbath and it involved mud (something you couldn't make on the sabbath). Probably why Jesus did it!
 - Talk about losing the forest in the trees, but isn't that what we do? (e.g. Refugees)
- Some Pharisees believed the man's story, others did not. Unsure what to think, they ask him his opinion... "What do you say about him [Jesus]?"
 - "He is a prophet..." He is beginning to see (physically & spiritually)
- The 'enlightened' spiritual leaders, however, are incapable of seeing the truth right in front of them. And so are we but by the grace of God!

John 9:18-34, [18] The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight [19] and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" [20] His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. [21] But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." [22] (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) [23] Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

- They don't believe the man was actually born blind... Who has the audacity here? Jesus healing on the sabbath or these guys?
- Look how terrified the parents are! Can you imagine? They throw him under the bus.

[24] So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God [swear to tell the whole truth...]. We know that this man is a sinner." [25] He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

- I love this b/c we get hung up on details too, don't we?
- So many say, "I can't share my faith, I don't know enough." Nobody knows your story better than you.
 - You are responsible before God for what you know (Luke 8:18)
 - Duckling Discipleship
 - True disciples hear from God, obey what he says, and share it with others
 - That is health — three legs on a stool
- You don't need to know everything. You're not God's lawyer. Tell people what you know.

[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?" [28] 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." [30] 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." [34] They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

- They ask the man again, but this time w/ a loaded question: "Now, we know this man is a sinner because he healed you on the sabbath..." - The bold beggar interrupts
 - I don't know if he is a sinner. What I do know is this - I was blind. Now I see.
 - Again, God doesn't need a lawyer. Tell what you know.
- They continue, "Yes but how?"
 - I already told you. Do you want to follow him too?
- They scoff at his tongue and cheek mockery. That THEY the experts would follow HIM?!
- His boldness continues... "You say he is a sinner, but how could a sinner do these things? I am the first man in the history of the world to be born blind and now be able to see. This is miraculous and it is of God!"
- The Pharisees refuse to see the truth, choose blind ignorance, and kick him out
 - That's what we do. We all have a paradigm, a box, and we refuse to let any external information into that paradigm that might destroy it.

John 9:35-41, [35] 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. [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." [40] 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.

- It is there, outside in the light of the world, outside the religious infrastructure that he sees Jesus face to face.
- I love his conversation w/ Jesus, "YOU HAVE SEEN HIM"
 - Yes, Jesus, he has. He has seen him physically, but he has also seen him spiritually → Jesus gave the man light in both worlds
- And look at verses 39-41, "That those who do not see may see and those who think they see may become blind"
- What a remarkable chapter. It begins in verse 1 w/ a man who is born blind. He receives physical sight and, later, spiritual sight to see Jesus. In verse 41, the end, we find men who claim to see God, but in fact are utterly blind to him - the Pharisees

Discovery Study

1. What does this teach about God?
 - a. Jesus, the Light of the World, illuminates your darkness.**
 - i. Genesis 1; The Light of the World (John 1)
2. What does this teach about mankind?
 - a. Minutiae obscures our spiritual sense.**
 - i. The disciples; the Pharisees; the Parents;
 - ii. For us... philosophical arguments, bunny trails. Jesus isn't just looking for people who find his teachings intriguing. He's looking for followers.
 - iii. Ex: Do people who have never heard the gospel get a pass rather than just obeying Jesus and going to them
 - b. The way of seeing is the way of the blind.**
 - i. We must be willing to admit we are spiritually blind before we can see the true light of the world (this happens as God unveils us to the truth)
 - ii. The beggar did not argue w/ Jesus about his blindness. He acknowledged it, obeyed and allowed himself to be healed
 - iii. For us: What if he had responded w/ pride and defensiveness instead? How are you responding to Jesus' words? With humility or pride?
3. If this is true, what will I do?
 - a. Acknowledge your need and give it to God.**
 - i. Great partakers are first great beggars. Those who are empty will be filled. The thirst will be satisfied. The blind will see. Matthew 5:6
 - ii. The barometer of how aware of your need you are is your prayer life.
 - iii. Your weakness is a platform for the glory of God to be on display.**
 1. Suffering, trials, tragedy, deformities
4. If this is true, who will I tell?
 - a. We are sent to share our story, a story of what we have seen!**
 - b. This I know - I was blind, now I see... It's a story for needy people, all people
 - c. Share it near (make a list of 20 friends); share it far.