

Healing of the Man Born Blind—John 9

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I. Review of John 7-8 and overview of John 9

John 7— The Controversial Jesus

Division in his family
Division in the multitude
Division between the religious leaders
Division between the religious leaders and the people

Key verse: John 7:24 "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

John 8— The light brings freedom from sin

The woman caught in adultery (8:1-11)
Jesus is the Light of the World (8:12-30)
The truth shall make you free (8:31-59)

Key verse: John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 9— Jesus gives sight to the blind man to illustrate that He is the light

1. John 9:1-7 The healing
 - a. The relationship between sickness and sin (1-3).
 - b. The work of God (4).
 - c. How He healed him (6-7).
2. Response of neighbors (8-14).
3. Response of the Pharisees (15-34).
 - a. Among themselves (15-16).
 - b. With the man (17).
 - c. With his parents (18-23).
 - d. The second questioning of the man
4. Jesus affirms His deity to the man (35-41).

II. Background:

1. John intentionally places this passage immediately after the events that occurred in Jerusalem during the Festival of Shelters, which was popularly known as "the Festival of Lights," and during which Jesus affirmed: *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness* (8.12). The healing of the man born blind illustrated what Jesus meant. John 9:5 "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."
2. This ("light," and Jesus as "the light of the world") is an important theme in the Gospel of John.
3. The contrast between the light and darkness are constant themes in John's New Testament writings.
4. Those who live in darkness are confused, unable to see reality. Lost in a world of illusion they make judgments based on mere appearances, and are simply unable to grasp what is important and true.

Key verse: John 9:39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."

III. John 9:1-7 The healing

1. There is a relationship between sickness and sin (9:1-3).

Deut 7:15 "The LORD will remove from you all sickness; and He will not put on you any of the harmful diseases of Egypt which you have known, but He will lay them on all who hate you.

2 Chron 7:14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Ps 103:3 Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;

Prov 3:7-8 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

Isa 19:22 The LORD will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the LORD, and He will respond to them and will heal them.

Isa 53:4-5 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
But He was pierced through for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

Matt 9:2-9 healing of the paralytic

5-6 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'? "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" -- then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

2. Sickness is not always the results of sin.

Ex 20:5-6 God remembers sins to the third and fourth generation (Ex 34:7; Num 14:18; Deut 5:9).

3. The teaching of religion is fatalistic! "People who suffer deserve it; and God blesses the righteous."

John 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"

John 9:24 So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner."

John 9:34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out.

4. Healing brings glory to God. One of the main religious barriers we have to break through to be healed is found in the statement "We can glorify God more by remaining sick, suffering patiently rather than be healed."

Gal 4: 13 but you know that it was because of a bodily illness (Lit. weakness of the flesh) that I preached the gospel to you the first time; 14 and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself.

1 Peter 2: 19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

5. The work of God

John 9:4 "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Heb 11:39).

6. How Jesus performs the healing

John 9:6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,

Jesus only spoke and did what He heard and saw the Father doing.
(John 5:19; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10-11)

IV. John 9:8-14 the neighbors respond in confusion

V. John 9:15 -- 34 the confusion of the Pharisees

1. Religious bias keeps us from receiving God's truth.

John 9:16 "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

John 9:29-30 "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes.

John 9:34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?"

2. We don't have to have all the answers to share our faith.

John 9:25 He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

3. The greatest hindrance to sharing our faith is fear of rejection.

John 9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.

John 9:34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out.

VI. John 9:35-41 Jesus affirms His deity to the man

1. What we worship declares what we believe (35-38).

2. Jesus came not only to save but also judge the world (39).

3. Spiritual pride keeps us from seeing who Jesus is.

John 9:39-41 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. (Rom 2:17-23)