

**Introduction:**

- 1 Cor 12:9 and 10 lists the power gifts: gift of faith, gifts of healing, gift of miracles.
  - I want us to believe God this morning for the operation of these gifts, in you, in this service.
  - Let's invite the Holy Spirit to the work through us today.
- I tried to bring clarity for myself yesterday regarding the difference between miracles signs and wonders.
  - Some say healings are gradual, miracles are instantaneous.
    - But in scripture, some healings are instantaneous. IE. Jesus healed them all.
    - Some healings are gradual...as they went they were healed. Ie. 10 lepers of Luke 17:14. So if you receive prayer today and do not see anything instantly, DO NOT SAY I DID NOT GET HEALED, receive it as you go. I read of a lady healed of thyroid. Hers was dead, not working. She received prayer kept taking her medication and for the next two years her confession was, I am healed. At two years she took her meds and got sick. She went to doctor a he said did not need her medication any more. She was healed.
  - Some say creative miracles are different than miracles.
    - A miracle would be a deaf person hearing. Creative miracle would be a person who has no inner ear suddenly hears because God gave them parts.
  - Then you have sign and wonders. Ie. metal or screws disappear in ones body. A limb grows out, everyone with back problems gets healed.
    - Signs point to Jesus.
    - Wonders make us stand in wonder/WOW!
- John 9:1-38

**I. The Man Born Blind**

- A. Let's start with the man born blind.
- B. The big question: The disciples seeing this man ask Jesus, "Who sinned? This man or his parents?"
  1. The man - how do you sin your mothers womb???
  2. Or his parents - possible but most of scripture teaches each are responsible for their sins. You can punish the child for your sin.
  3. Jesus reply is neither. And with an emphatic, "BUT" – that the works of God might be displayed.
    - a) We are always looking for causes of our sicknesses.
    - b) Maybe God wants us to look for the works of heaven! Maybe God wants to display His glory.
- C. The Bigger healing!
  1. Jesus sees no faith in this young man. (vs. 6) Jesus simply begins to heal him.
    - a) Jesus initiates this act.
    - b) As in Acts 3, Peter and John initiate the healing of the lame beggar.
    - c) You are going to be given time to initiate some things from heaven today too!

2. \*\*\*God may not see any faith in some of you this morning (like the blind man) but He is willing to heal and maybe this is your day to get a testimony as someone prays for you.
3. Hear these words of Jesus, "**We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.**" (John 9:4, ESV)
  - a) We Must - that includes you and I!
  - b) Must - emphatic urgency!
4. Jesus spits on the ground, makes some mud with his saliva and anoints the man's eyes with the mixture. The man is blind so he does not see what is coming.
5. Jesus gives him some instruction. "**Go wash in the pool of Siloam.**" Siloam means 'sent.' So he goes! Now we have to remember, he is blind as he goes! The long lonely walk to the pool. **Sometimes walking out your healing is a long lonely process.** Nobody can do it for you. You have to walk it out.
6. One of the first things we can learn here is this: If you want to be touched by God then you have to accept His methods. Even if they are not what you want.
7. Secondly, the man obeyed and took the walk to the pool, blind.
8. I Love how this portion of scripture closes: "**...So he went and washed and came back seeing.**" (John 9:7, ESV) We could stop here and this story is powerful! But we have to look at what comes next to the young man.

## II. Those Who Refused to Believe

- A. The people who are spiritually blind. Three groups.
  1. The neighbors, and those who had seen him as a beggar. vs 8-12
  2. The Pharisees. vs. 13 bound by religion.
  3. Parents, those who know he was blind.
- B. What stops them from believing.
  1. The neighbors refuse to believe because of their unbelief.
  2. The Pharisees refuse to believe because of their laws and traditions.
  3. The Parents refuse to believe because of fear. vs 22
- C. The good news is! The mans faith grows amid persecution and unbelief.
  1. His testimony to the unbelieving neighbors: "**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."**" (John 9:11, ESV)
    - a) A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument.
  2. His testimony to the Pharisees: "**He put mud on my eyes and I washed and I see.** (vs 15) (Vs 16 speaks of signs [plural] "**...What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."**" (John 9:17, ESV) His faith is growing. He is not just a man but a man with the power of God...a prophet. He still hasn't the full revelation but he has more than the schooled Pharisees.
  3. His testimony to the Pharisees and his parents:
    - a) "**He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."**" (John 9:25, ESV)

- b) Why isn't this amazing!
  - (1) You do not know where he comes from but he opened my eyes! vs 30
  - (2) "We know" that God listens to worshipers and those who do his will! vs. 31
  - (3) *"If this man were not from God he could do nothing."* vs 33
- 4. This mans faith has been solidified in the fire of testing.
  - a) They throw him out of the synagogue.

### III. The Blind Man Really Sees

- A. The young man is put out of the synagogue and welcomed into the Kingdom!
- B. Jesus goes to the man who is put out.
- C. Jesus asks him: *"Do you believe?"*
  - 1. Who is He that I may believe in Him?
    - a) *You are looking at Him!*
  - 2. And the man believed and worshiped Him.

### Conclusion:

- Jesus is the light of the world is the message of this miracle. And Jesus is the gate through which men come into the kingdom.
- Jesus healed the blind man as a prophetic act to demonstrate 'seeing' who He really is.
  - If we truly want to see, then we have to make sure that our own traditions and beliefs do not blind us.
  - These unbelieving in our text today saw a Messiah in their minds that was different from the One who actually showed up. They were blind to who He truly is.
  - The blind man on the other hand, when it was pointed out who Jesus is, believed and worshiped.
- Invitation
  - *"Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;" (Isaiah 35:4-6, ESV)*
  - *"But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." (1 Corinthians 2:9-10, ESV)*
  - You may have great faith and yet remain unhealed. Paul left Trophimus sick in Miletus 2 Tim 4:20. Paul could not heal him.