

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

WHAT THE BLIND MAN SAW (JOHN 9)

OPEN:

- In John 8 (vs. 12), Jesus states: **I am the light of the world.** In John 9, He demonstrates it by giving sight to the blind man.
 - ✓ The Feast of Booths is over, the four-gigantic candelabras have been extinguished...the light has gone out and the Temple courtyard is dark again.
 - ✓ We move from Jesus' declaration to His demonstration.
 - ✓ We are introduced to a blind man that has never seen the light of day, never watched a sunrise over the Sea of Galilee, nor a sunset over Mt. Carmel.
 - He had never seen a bird fly, a flower blossom, or even the face of his mother.
 - From toddlerhood to boyhood and now into manhood he has lived in the dark.
 - He has given up on most of his dreams and taken his place among societies disabled.
 - No disability income back then...he was forced to beg for a living.
 - Fat chance this would ever change except for the fact he is about to meet the "Light of the world."

1) THE **MIRACLE** - (JOHN 9:1-2) *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- There was a common misconception in that day...sickness was the result of sin.
 - ✓ Such was the mistake Job's friends made...seeing his suffering they accuse him of wrong doing.

- ✓ The disciples ask: Is this blindness the result of this man's sins or his parents?
 - The Torah (Jewish law book) claimed that God would punish the children because of their parent's sin.
- ✓ Jesus clears the matter up...this blindness is not the result of anyone's sin...but that the power of God might be seen.
- Sometimes God uses sickness/suffering to correct us (He gets our attention), hopefully leading to confession/restoration.
- ✓ Other times He instructs us (the hospital room becomes the classroom...we learn to depend on the Lord...this time of reflection may lead to re-prioritizing).
- ✓ On this particular occasion...this man's problem (blindness) brought him into the presence of Christ.
 - His blindness was timed by God to coincide (compliment) the Lord's earthly ministry.
 - There are mysteries in this life that may only be understood in eternity to come.
 - Having said that and recognizing that we finite creatures have a limited perspective...no matter how contrary things may appear, know this:
 - a) God is too loving to be unkind.
 - b) He is too wise to make any mistakes.
 - c) He is too powerful not to have His purposes realized.
- ❖ What seemed to be a terrible thing became the very thing that allowed this man to have an encounter with God.

Vs. 4 – We are to carry out the task assigned to us...the night is coming when no one can work.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT) – ¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

✓ Jesus likely had in mind the dark period ahead of Him...the crucifixion.

❖ Let us serve the Lord now while we have our health...the day is coming when we will not be able to do some things we can do now.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-2 (NLT) - Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor Him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore."² Remember Him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky.

❖ We keep looking for a better day to serve God (when things slow down, when the kids are older, when my job is not so demanding) we need to start today!

- God made man from the dust of the earth (**Genesis 2:7**) and now Jesus would anoint his eyes with clay (mud) and tell him to go to the pool of Siloam and wash.

✓ Why Siloam? In the recent feast of Booths, this was the place where the priests dipped the golden pitcher and carried it to the Temple altar...Jesus proclaimed: **If you are thirsty, come and drink...I offer to you Rivers of living water.**

✓ The statements: I Am the water of life, I Am the light of the world come together here in what is about to happen for this blind beggar.

- This man's blindness is a picture of man's spiritual condition:

a) Blind – can't see or understand spiritual truth (**1 Corinthians 2:14**)

b) Beggar – empty, something is missing in life.

c) Helpless – Unable to cure or fix his problem.

✓ Jesus extends grace...He could have quietly walked on by...the man couldn't see Him...besides it was the Sabbath.

○ Jesus stopped...aren't you glad Jesus reached out to you?

- Christ didn't give the man glasses, send him to a doctor...religion offers substitutes instead of salvation.
 - Jesus sent him to the pool of Siloam and he went...demonstrating faith.
 - With new sight came a new life.
- Word quickly spread as neighbors and acquaintances realized the blind man could now see.

? Can others see the transformation Christ has had upon you?

- ✓ One does not have to be a theologian in order to experience salvation.
 - All the man knew was his name...Jesus.
- ❖ Simple faith in Christ puts you in the family of God.

2) THE **MESS** - (JOHN 9:13-23) *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- a) **CROSS-EXAMINATION**...the Pharisees focus on the “rules” instead of the relationship.
- ✓ They don't congratulate the man...rejoice that he can now see.
 - ✓ They were bound by legalism...they offer no grace...what concerned them was the Sabbath had been violated.
 - ✓ They had complicated things...in an attempt to keep the Sabbath they had written pages on what you could and could not do:
 - You couldn't carry a handkerchief from one room to another.
 - If your lamp ran out of oil, you couldn't fill it.
 - You couldn't cut your fingernails or trim your beard.
 - If you broke a bone you had to wait until the next day to have it set (you could practice medicine if your life was in danger only you couldn't do anything to improve life).

❖ I was nit-picky stuff and it happens today when we begin to focus on the minors and get our eyes off Jesus.

- **Vs. 16** some concluded – Jesus is not from God...but others argued...how could an ordinary sinner give sight to the blind?
- Refusing to believe the obvious, they try to discredit the witness.
- What say you? (**vs. 17**) – **I think He must be a prophet.**
- They haul in his parents, attack his family.
 - ✓ They drill them with questions: **is this your son, was he born blind, how can he see? (vs. 21)**
 - ✓ His parents were afraid of this powerful group...they see where this is going...they plead ignorance.
 - ✓ They fear the consequences...they are intimidated...they were about to be thrown out of the synagogue.

b) BOLD DECLARATION (JOHN 9:24-33)

- He was not going to debate theological issues with the Pharisees...arguing theology usually gets us nowhere.
- He used the power of testimony: **vs. 25 – “I was blind and now I can see!”**

❖ A transformed life speaks for itself about who Jesus is and what He can do.

- Share your story with others...let others see how Jesus has changed your life?

c) EX-COMMUNICATION (JOHN 9:34)

- **They threw him out of the synagogue...they cast him out.**
- What did this involve?
 - ✓ There was two types of ex-communication...one was temporary, for the purpose of discipline so that the person might repent and return to God.

- ✓ The other was permanent and the individual was banished from the synagogue for life.
- ✓ Why was this such a big deal?
 - He was cut off from the religious life of the nation.
 - He was to be avoided by family and friends.
 - Anyone found helping him put themselves in jeopardy.
 - No one would employ him.
 - This was a serious matter with grave consequences.

❖ Up to this point, Jesus had to remain out of sight.

- Facing opposition tests our faith...Jesus gave the man room to grow in grace.

3) THE **MESSIAH** - (JOHN 9:35-41) *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- The Jews cast him out but Jesus took him in.
- He wasn't left to wonder the city alone for long...Jesus came to him.
 - ✓ He had never actually seen Jesus...it is likely he recognized the sound of His voice.
 - ✓ Jesus identifies Himself and the man worships Him.
 - ✓ The blind man saw what the religious men couldn't.
 - ✓ Rejected by men but accepted by God.
 - ✓ Ex-communicated from the house of worship but discovering the One worthy of worship.

CLOSE: What do you see?

- The helpless blind man receives his sight.
- The self-righteous religious people remain spiritually blind.
- Jesus is the light of the world.

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.
The saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found.
T'was blind but now I see.*

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Message Notes
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