

John 9-Healing the Man Born Blind

(Overheads will be in bold Print)

We are in John 9 today and Christ's encounter with the man born blind. There is a lot we can learn from this passage to improve our ability to share Christ in our encounters with unbelievers. Open in Prayer.

As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:1-5

After studying this passage for the last few weeks, I would have loved to have had more than one week on this passage but the focus of this series to learn from each encounter those points which will better equip us to "Extend our reach." We will move quickly through the passage and I have divided the lesson into three main points. The first

1. Live as Christ

I first had it as "Live for Christ" but I felt living "as Christ" fit the description of the instruction better. In the first part of this passage, we see Jesus as He was "passing by" saw a man blind from birth. (Stoning Threat) The disciples began this questioning about "who sinned." While they were consumed with why, Jesus wanted Him to see and to demonstrate the works of God. He shows His compassion. () He wants to do the work God has sent Him to do, and do it while it is "day". Using the opportunity while he is in the world. As instruction to us God's Word says:

- **So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of the faith. Ga. 6:10**
- **Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. Col. 4:5-6**

To live as Christ, we need to live intentionally, recognizing that we are "His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which He has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Living and working each day ready to share, not passing by opportunities God puts in our path. Great privilege at jail. Are we prepared? Have we taken on the quarterly challenges? If we have taken time to prepare, God will use us. But how are we to respond.

So as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...Col. 3:12

This goes so well with our next quarter challenge from Gal. 5..., Again Christ's focus was on showing His compassion. Disciples are trying to figure out why. As we have opportunity to share we must avoid getting caught up in theological discussions or arguments that go nowhere. People who want to prove us wrong will always try and take us on a rabbit trail. The disciples took off on the classic question why is there evil. That is a question no one can adequately answer this side of heaven. An in-depth study of the Book of Job would help, best book that I have read that comes close is The Grand Demonstration by Jay Adams. But in regard to these type of theological discussions Spurgeon said:

- **"There are many in the world that are fond of these topics, spinning cobwebs, blowing bubbles, making theories, breaking them, and making more. I wonder whether the world was ever blessed to the extent of a bad farthing by all the theories of all the learned men that have ever lived...I would rather create an ounce of help than a ton of theory." Spurgeon**

Always try to get back to sharing Christ. Showing compassion and concern. First started sharing my faith, I thought it was my job to point out all the wrongs of the other person, until my pastor set me straight and said, "that isn't even biblical." Don't be accusatory, avoid "You are or you are not..." We are just sinners who have been given spiritual eyes to see, and we are bringing Christ to them in order that they might see. Recently I had an opportunity to share Christ again with a homosexual at jail. I have known him for 15 years and have always made a point to show my concern for him all the times he has been back to jail. Recently, he wanted to talk because he was now facing a possible life sentence. I listened again to the same charges he was always caught up in-an abusive homosexual relationship. We have had previous discussions of God so when given the opportunity I asked him (with all the compassion I could), (Name), do you understand all the scriptural warnings about homosexuality, and he nodded yes. I then asked, isn't it time to consider Christ. He was silent and didn't answer but the next day he came and sat next to me when I was showing of a R.C. Sproul DVD in his tank. The next week he came again. I am praying that Christ will give him spiritual eyes to see and understand the forgiveness of God. We are often called as those who hate homosexuals and we need to know how to communicate the love of God with the truth of God. (even if done right) I have another brother in prison who is big on doctrine and big on beating others over the head with it. Barber shop. (Enemy is hungry-eat, thirsty-drink, burning coals) In my letter to him, I asked him what would have been the outcome of a friendly greeting and a quality haircut. His answer this week. (read additional scripture? I Peter 3:12-16 Time factor to include>

- **And keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ we be put to shame. I Peter 3:16**
- **We need to not only know the Word of God but also have the wisdom how to properly apply it, display it, and proclaim it.**

Jesus said to work while it is day. It is still day time but if you have watched the same events I have watched in the last couple weeks, we should realize that it gets darker by the day and should sense the urgency of living as Christ-Ready, compassionate, and speaking the truth in love. Continuing the encounter

- **When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” So he went and came back seeing. Therefore, the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?” Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, “Go to Siloam and wash”; so, I went away and washed, and I received sight.” They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, “He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Therefore, some of the Pharisees were saying, “this man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes” And he said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see? His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him he is of age, he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. For this reason, his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” 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.” 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.” John 9:6-25**

Great Story. Story of the compassion but also of the power of Christ to transform life. But it is also a great illustration of the Gospel. So, we are not only to live as Christ, but to make Him known.

1. Live as Christ

2. Proclaim Christ

Do we know the Gospel? Can we communicate the Gospel? Leroy and I include diagnostic questions at the beginning of every evangelism class. It gives us a sense of where people are spiritually and how well they understand the gospel. Sometimes we are really surprised at the answers given. At the end of our classes we ask those participating to answer the diagnostic questions again. Once again, it gives us an idea of how well they know the gospel and how well they will be able to communicate the gospel. Underlying this story are some great parallels of the Gospel and True conversion

Blind from birth	Born in sin
Jesus Passes by	Jesus came
Jesus applies mud	Jesus sheds blood
“Go and Wash”	“Believe and Live”
Faith-Siloam	Faith-cross
He can see	We are changed
Christ did it!	Christ did it!
Defends Christ	“Make a defense”

Can we communicate God’s Gospel? We were simply helpless blind sinners, who were given spiritual sight by Christ to understand His perfect work on the cross and given the beautiful and free invitation to “Believe on the Lord Jesus”. Do we know our life has been changed? Can we truly say, “one thing I know I was blind but now I see?” Are we quick to give honor and glory to Christ? Do we have a testimony of Christ’s work in our lives? Is He reflected in our lives? If you don’t know these things, this same Jesus, this resurrected Savior, is passing by your way today, and wants you to see. His precious blood has been shed, and by His grace won’t you come to the fountain of life? How many today have sung these words, yet they are still not felt in their heart. Amazing Grace How sweet the sound, that save a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I am found, Twas blind but now I see. The story continues.

“So, they said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you? The reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 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. We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered him, “you were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So, they put him out. John 9:26-34

Here is another amazing thing. Here is a man who was a beggar one day and standing tall before the rulers the next day, proclaiming Christ. As believers, it is time to learn that we have been given His authority to proclaim His truths and His Gospel and if God be for us, who can be against us. We stand on absolute truths, eternal truths, but sadly truths many will refute. Back to the encounter:

“Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man? He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. 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.” John 9:34-41

Once again, we see the ultimate compassion of Christ-What good is physical sight without Spiritual Sight. The whole reason He came. “He worshipped.” We come to our last point....

1. Live as Christ
2. Proclaim Christ
3. Trust Christ

There will always be those who reject Christ. There will always be those who think they see-meaning they think they have some good in themselves, something good enough to merit the love of God. When they scoff, walk away, or break off contact, we need to hear the same words God told Samuel when the Israelites wanted a king. “They have not rejected you they have rejected Me.” God is looking for those who know they are bankrupt just like the beggar had never had eyesight. (Is. 66:2) They know they have a need, and when they are told there is a way to be totally forgiven, just like the beggar they will exercise faith by coming to the fountain. As Jeremiah says called God “the fountain of living waters.” But just like the beggar it is only Christ that can open the eyes of faith. Our greatest defense, our greatest presentation, with our greatest compassion cannot bring “enlightenment” to the heart of man. We are called to proclaim it. God is the one who knows the heart and God is the only one who can draw people to Himself. We need to free ourselves of being responsible for results. (Sovereignty of God in Salvation) We need to trust Christ. We are responsible to properly

represent Him and rightly proclaim His gospel. A verse that really helped me and gave me great understanding: Paul said:

“For this reason, I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.” 2 Tim. 2:9

Paul understood this truth, that salvation was in no one else, the gospel must be proclaimed, because the elect is not saved apart from faith in Christ. He knew the gospel was power. He said:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

He was willing to endure all things, beatings, ship wrecks, imprisonment, snake bites, stoning, in order that God’s elect would hear the gospel. He knew Christ would give them “spiritual eyesight to come and wash in His eternal fountain.” (What are we willing to endure to make known the riches of Christ? What are those things that keep us silent? Are we trusting Christ to grant spiritual life to people who are “dead in their trespasses and sins.”) (PERSONAL STRUGGLE) (Fish Story?)

Close-review each point

1. Live as Christ

2. Proclaim Christ

3. Trust Christ

- Closing Prayer-Transition to Communion
- Communion-Encounter with Christ-Silent meditation during serving of bread, music during serving of cup.
- Closing Song
- Benediction

“But you are a Chosen Race, a royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a People for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. For you once were not a people (blind), but now you are the people of God(sight); you had not received mercy (blind) but now you have received mercy. (sight) I Peter 2:9