

## SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

John 9:1-41

JOHN 9 HIGHLIGHTS A **FIFTH MAJOR MIRACLE** BY JESUS in the Gospel of John.

- (1) Jesus turned **WATER INTO WINE** (John 2)
- (2) Jesus healed the **NOBLEMAN'S SON** (John 4)
- (3) Jesus healed the **LAME MAN** by the Pool of **Bethesda** (Jn 5)
- (4) Jesus FED THE **FIVE THOUSAND** (John 6)
- (5) Jesus healed the **BLIND MAN** (John 9)

**(John 9)**, "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. {2} And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? {3} Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. {4} I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. {5} As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. {6} When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, {7} And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. {8} The neighbors therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? {9} Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. {10} Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? {11} He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. {12} Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. {13} They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. {14} And it was the SABBATH day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. {15} Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. {16} Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. {17} They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. {18} But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. {19} And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say

was born blind? how then doth he now see? {20} His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: {21} But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. {22} These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. {23} Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. {24} Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. {25} He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. {26} Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? {27} He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? {28} Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. {29} We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. {30} The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. {31} Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. {32} Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. {33} If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. {34} They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. {35} Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? {36} He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? {37} And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. {38} And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshiped him. {39} And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. {40} And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? {41} Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth."



**S** **THE PREVIOUS MESSAGE** from John 9 presented **SIX REASONS WHY WE SUFFER. THE DISCIPLES** had looked at the man who had been blind from birth, and **BEGAN A THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION ON THE CAUSES OF BLINDNESS FROM BIRTH. (V. 2)**, “. . . ‘Master, who did sin, **THIS MAN**, or **HIS PARENTS**, that he was born blind?’”

Only one of two possibilities existed in the minds of the disciples as to the cause of blindness from birth. Either the man’s **parents** had sinned or **the man** had sinned while in his mother’s womb. **AN OPINION** of that day was that a person could sin while in the womb. The religious leaders in our text reflected that opinion.

Ⓒ **(V. 34)**, “. . . Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? . . . ”

**S** **JESUS ANSWERED** the disciples’ question in a manner that probably shocked their socks off:

Ⓒ **(V. 3)**, “. . . **NEITHER** hath this man sinned, **NOR** his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.” (Read John 11:4)

**S** THAT VERSE BECAME THE **SPRINGBOARD TO EXAMINE SEVEN BIBLICAL REASONS WHY PEOPLE SUFFER.** We examined the fact that:

- I. SOME PEOPLE SUFFER **BECAUSE OF SATAN**
- II. SOME PEOPLE SUFFER **BECAUSE OF SIN**
- III. SOME PEOPLE SUFFER IN ORDER **TO GLORIFY GOD**
- IV. SOME PEOPLE SUFFER IN ORDER **TO BE TESTED**
- V. SOME PEOPLE SUFFER IN ORDER **TO MANIFEST GOD’S WORKS**
- VI. SOME PEOPLE SUFFER **TO DEVELOP GODLY CHARACTER**
- VII. SOME PEOPLE SUFFER AS **A COMPLETE MYSTERY**

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**IN THIS MESSAGE WE OBSERVE JESUS** as He heals the blind man. We observe Jesus as He uses the healing of that blind man to teach lessons on spiritual blindness. In today’s text Jesus moves beyond the issue of **PHYSICAL BLINDNESS**, and addresses the subject of **SPIRITUAL**

**BLINDNESS.** The fact was there were many blind people present with Jesus that day. One man was unable to see with his eyes, while many were unable to see with their minds and hearts. **THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS** who opposed Jesus that day could see Jesus with their **physical eyes**, but they were unable to see Jesus with their **spiritual eyes**.

**(V. 39-41)**, “And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which **SEE NOT** might **SEE**; and that they which **SEE** might be made **BLIND**. {40} And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we **BLIND** also? {41} Jesus said unto them, If ye were **BLIND**, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.”

THERE ARE **TWO KINDS OF BLINDNESS:**

**(1) PHYSICAL BLINDNESS IS** a disability with which we are all somewhat familiar. For whatever reason, some people are **unable to see** with their physical eyes. Some people are blind because they were **born** that way. Other people are blind because of a **disease** that affected them. Still others are blind because of some **accident**.

**S** While living in Hong Kong we heard the testimony of a Chinese Christian lady by the name of **LUCY CHENG**. When just a little girl, her parents placed some herbal medication on her eyes with the purpose of helping her. The unexpected result was that she went blind.

**S** **FANNY CROSBY** wrote more than 9000 Christian hymns during her lifetime (1820-1915). Many of the hymns in our hymnal were written by Fanny Crosby. She wrote: "Blessed Assurance," "To God Be the Glory," "Rescue the Perishing," and "I Am Thine, O Lord." Those of you who are familiar with Fanny’s testimony know that she went blind as a little baby. A quack doctor treated her infected eyelids by placing hot poultices on them. The infection did clear up, but scars formed on her eyes, and she became blind for life.

**S** **JUST IMAGINE** for a moment what it would be like to be physically blind.

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There is a second kind of blindness with which we tend to be less familiar. The second blindness is called *SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS*.

(2) **SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS IS** the condition where a person is void of the ability to understand the truths of God. **Like** a blind man who cannot see to find his physical way, a spiritually blind person cannot see to find God's way. The spiritually blind may have **20/20** physical vision, and yet be blind with their spiritual eyes. They cannot see the **wisdom, ways, purposes** or **will** of God because they are spiritually blind.

**THE BIBLE RECORDS MUCH CONCERNING THE CONDITION OF SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS:**

**C** (**2 Cor 4:3-4**), "But if our gospel be **HID**, it is hid to them that are lost: {4} In whom the god of this world hath **BLINDED** the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

**C** (**Eph 4:18**), "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the **BLINDNESS** of their heart:"

**C** (**Mat 13:13**), "... They seeing **SEE NOT**; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."

**C** (**1 Cor 2:14**), "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: **NEITHER CAN HE KNOW THEM**, because they are spiritually discerned."

**C** (**Luke 10:21**), "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight."

**C** (**John 9:39**), "And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind."

**S** **AS BAD AS PHYSICAL BLINDNESS IS**, it pales into insignificance in comparison to spiritual blindness. **PHYSICAL BLINDNESS KEEPS** a person from seeing the beauty of God's creation, **BUT SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS KEEPS** a person from seeing God Himself. Spiritual blindness, left untreated, results in eternal separation from God.

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**LET'S EXAMINE** the story from John 9 as we examine THE CONDITION KNOWN AS **SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS**. The outline for this message follows a progression with one point building upon the other.

- I. THE "NIGHT" IS COMING
- II. WORK WHILE IT IS DAY
- III. EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT
- IV. THE "BLIND" BECOME "BLINDER"

### **I. THE "NIGHT" IS COMING**

**(V. 4)**, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: **THE NIGHT COMETH**, when no man can work."

**S** Several years ago I drove back from Texas and arrived back in the Tri-Cities before the work day began. Because the **moon** was not up, the journey through the night had been very dark. With the passing of the hours the **first glimpses of light** began to appear. As the light began to paint the morning sky, it was a wonder to behold. With every passing moment the light grew **brighter and brighter**, until finally the **sun** came up over the horizon indicating

that full daylight had arrived.

THE **SUNSET** the preceding evening stood in **SHARP CONTRAST** to that morning sunrise. As my trip began the evening before, the sun went down and the sky grew **darker and darker** until finally it was so dark that headlights were required in order to see the road.

**S** Through the entire course of our lives, the **day** has always been followed by the **night**. It has happened that way without failure every 24 hours all of our lives. When the day passes, the night always follows.

JESUS USED THAT PHYSICAL REALITY TO ILLUSTRATE SPIRITUAL REALITY.

**(V. 4)**, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is **DAY: THE NIGHT COMETH**, when no man can work.”

**S** When Jesus used the word “**COMING**,” He indicated that “**the night**” lay somewhere **in the future** in relation to Himself. In other words, “the night” had **not yet arrived**, but it was **on its way**.

**S** When Jesus used the word “**NIGHT**,” He was referring to a coming time of **INTENSE SPIRITUAL DARKNESS**. As the *physical night* is a time of **physical darkness**, so the *spiritual night* will be a time of **spiritual darkness**.

**S** **OF COURSE THE QUESTION IS**, what was “the night” that Jesus was making reference to? Jesus gives us **a couple of clues** in the words that He used. Let me offer two possibilities. The first thought is certain and beyond question. The second thought is up for debate.

**(1)** JESUS HAD **HIS COMING CRUCIFIXION** in mind when He spoke of the coming “**night**.”

**(V. 5)**, “**AS LONG AS** I am in the world, I am the **LIGHT** of the world.”

That verse indicated that a time was coming in which Jesus would no longer be in the world in physical form. In fact, **WITHIN SIX SHORT MONTHS** from the time Jesus spoke those words, the religious authorities arrested, tried, condemned and crucified Him. The world did all in its power to **extinguish** the “light” of Jesus Christ.

**JESUS KNEW** that day of “darkness” lay in the future.

**(John 12:35)**, “. . . Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.”

**(2)** THERE IS **GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE** that Jesus meant something **much broader** by “the night cometh” than just His crucifixion. As you read the last five words of V. 4, you discover that the prophecy included more people than just Jesus alone. Had Jesus stopped with the word “cometh,” there would be every reason to think that Jesus was referring only to His crucifixion. But Jesus added those last five words that included others besides Himself.

**(V. 4)**, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, **WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK**.”

What day was Jesus referring to that would be characterized by the words: “no man can work.”? Was He referring to the early persecution of believers that followed His crucifixion? Was He referring to the persecution of the early church as they shared the Gospel? The problem with limiting Jesus’ statement to that point in time is that those early Christians continued to share the Gospel in spite of the opposition. Their work was difficult and very costly, but they were still able to work. Jesus said a time was coming “when no man can work.”

**IS IT POSSIBLE** that Jesus looked far beyond the cross to that period of time known as **THE GREAT TRIBULATION**? Jesus described that day.

**(Mat 24:21-22)**, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. {22} And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

**S THE GREAT TRIBULATION** will certainly be a time of great spiritual darkness. It might adequately be characterized as a time in which “**no man can work.**” That period of time will be characterized by two kinds of “darkness.” Scripture characterizes it as a time of both *physical darkness* and *spiritual darkness*.

### **Ě PHYSICAL DARKNESS**

**C (Isa 13:10)**, “For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be **DARKENED** in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.”

**C (Acts 2:20)**, “The sun shall be turned into **DARKNESS**, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:”

**C (Rev 8:12)**, “And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was **DARKENED**, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.”

**C (Rev 9:2)**, “And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were **DARKENED** by reason of the smoke of the pit.”

### **Ě SPIRITUAL DARKNESS**

**C (Rev 16:10)**, “And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of **DARKNESS**; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,”

**C (2 Th 2:3)**, “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come **A FALLING AWAY** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”

**C (2 Th 2:7-12)**, “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, **UNTIL HE BE TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY.** {8} And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: {9} **EVEN HIM**, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, {10} And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. {11} And for this cause God shall send them **STRONG DELUSION**, that they should believe a lie: {12} That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

**S “THE NIGHT COMETH, WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK.”** If that sounds a bit frightening, remember that after the night, the morning comes.

**(Psa 30:5)**, “. . . Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

### **I. THE “NIGHT” IS COMING**

Since the “night” is coming:

### **II. WORK WHILE IT IS DAY**

**(V. 4)**, “I must work the works of him that sent me, **WHILE IT IS DAY:** . . . ”

**S OUR TEXT IS AN EXAMPLE** of Jesus “working while it was day.” Jesus took advantage of the opportunity while He had it.

**(V. 6)**, “When he had thus spoken, he **SPAT** on the ground, and made **CLAY** of the spittle, and he **ANOINTED** the eyes of the blind man with the clay,”

**S** Jesus' process was to **spit** on the dirt and make **mud**. With the mud Jesus **anointed** the blind man's eyes. He then gave the blind man **a duty** to carry out. The man did as he was commanded and the result was astonishing.

**(V. 7)**, “. . . **GO, WASH** in the pool of **SILOAM**, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) **HE WENT** his way therefore, **AND WASHED**, and **CAME SEEING**.”

**S** THAT IS **AN AMAZING STORY**. It is wonderful! I am concerned that sometimes we read some Bible stories so often that we fail to see their **wonder**. The **BLIND MAN** washed in the pool of **SILOAM** just like Jesus told him to, and he was able to see **for the first time** in his entire life.

**S** This story is as wonderful as when **Elisha told NAAMAN** to go and dip seven times in the Jordan river and his leprosy would be cured. Naaman obeyed and his leprous flesh became like that of a little child (2 Kings 5:14).

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This miracle of Jesus healing the blind man is **UNIQUE** in many respects in relationship to all the other miracles that Jesus performed in His day. This miracle placed Jesus in **A DIFFERENT CATEGORY** from all the other prophets that preceded Him. When Jesus healed the blind man, Jesus gave **strong proof** that Jesus was the **MESSIAH**.

#### **FOUR FACTS:**

**(1)** It is interesting to note that **THE O.T. DOES NOT RECORD ONE SINGLE BLIND PERSON** being healed. Even our text acknowledges that fact. The man said to the religious leaders who doubted his testimony:

**(John 9:32)**, “Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.”

- (2)** **The only example** in the Bible of a blind person being healed by someone other than Jesus is found in Acts 9:17-18. **Ananias** went to Saul of Tarsus because God had told him to go. After laying hands on him, **scales** fell from Saul's eyes and he was able to see. Other than that one instance, the only person that is recorded in Scripture as healing blindness is Jesus.
- (3)** There are **more instances** of Jesus healing blind people than any other type of miracle. Examples are recorded in Matt. 9:27-31; 12:22ff; 15:30ff; 21:14; Mark 8:22-26; 10:46-52; and Luke 7:22ff. (Kenneth Gangel, *JOHN, Holman New Testament Commentary*, pg 180).
- (4)** One indicator Jesus was God's Messiah was that **HE HEALED THE BLIND**. **GOD HAD CLEARLY REVEALED TO THE O.T. SAINTS** that the Messiah would do what no O.T. prophet was ever recorded as having done.

**(Isa 35:5-6)**, “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. {6} Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN **JOHN THE BAPTIST** was in jail and he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if Jesus was the One whom God had promised? Jesus answered in reference to Isaiah's prophecy.

**(Mat 11:4-6)**, “Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do **hear** and **see**: {5} The **blind** receive their sight, and the **lame** walk, the **lepers** are cleansed, and the **deaf** hear, the **dead** are raised up, and the **poor** have the gospel preached to them. {6} And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.”

**S** Our text is an example **JESUS FULFILLING O.T. MESSIANIC PROPHECY** IN SUCH A MANNER THAT **NO SINCERE PERSON** could possibly have denied that Jesus was God’s promised Messiah. **And yet** Jesus knew the religious authorities of His day were going to deny Him. The reason they could not see Jesus for who He was, was that they were spiritually blind.

- I. THE “NIGHT” IS COMING
- II. WORK WHILE IT IS DAY

### III. EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT

**S** Our text presents **FIVE SCENES** that reveal and present the evidence that Jesus **TRULY WAS GOD’S Messiah** and the **Savior of the world.**

#### SCENE #1 – THE MAN BEFORE HIS NEIGHBORS

**(V. 8-12)**, “**The neighbors** therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? {9} Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.”

**THEY SAID UNTO HIM,**  
{10} . . . **How were thine eyes opened?**

**HE SAID TO HIM,**  
{11} . . . **A MAN** that is **CALLED JESUS** made **clay**, and **anointed** mine eyes, and **said** unto me, **Go** to the pool of Siloam, and **wash**: and I **went** and **washed**, and I **received** sight.

**S** **A WORD OF CAUTION** IS ADVISED at this point. **Many times** people think **THE SECRET TO SPIRITUAL SUCCESS IS TO IMITATE** what has worked in the past. Wisdom advises against such. Take the different ways that Jesus healed the blind for an example.

- (1) In **Matthew 9:29** all Jesus did was **TOUCH** the eyes of two blind men and they were able to see.
- (2) In **Mark 8:23** Jesus **SPIT** on the eyes of a blind man, and put his hands upon him and he was healed.
- (3) In **Mark 10:52** all Jesus did was **SPEAK** and the blind man received his sight.
- (4) In **John 9:6** Jesus spit on the ground and made **CLAY** and anointed the eyes of the blind man and he was able to see.

**S** Because of **our incessant habit** of trying to imitate the success of others, it has been suggested that **FOUR DENOMINATIONS** be formed on the basis of how to perform the miracle of healing blind eyes. Remember that Jesus used four different methods to heal four different blind people. The suggested names for those four denominations:

- (1) THE **TOUCHITES**
- (2) THE **SPITTITES**
- (3) THE **SPEAKITES**
- (4) THE **MUDDITES**

**S** Years ago I heard **a silly little story** about **A MAN** who was known for his notorious sins. He **FELL HEAD FIRST INTO AN OLD WELL** where a bucket on a rope was lowered to retrieve the drinking water. Thankfully the well was dry and the man didn’t drown. His fall was broken enough that it didn’t kill him when he hit bottom. But because he was facing with his head down, he could not crawl out. In desperation the man cried out to God. He confessed his sin and called on God to save him. He told God that if He would get him out of that well, he would spend the rest of his life telling people how to be saved.

Sure enough, God saved him both spiritually and physically. A man walked by the well and heard him screaming for help. He lowered the rope and got the man out. The man immediately began to lead people to the Lord. He would take them out to the farm and throw them down into that old dry well and tell them he would help them out if they would ask God to save them.

That silly little story makes a very good point. Just because

God saved a person upside down in a well on one occasion, does not mean that He has to do it that way every time.

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**THEY SAID TO HIM**

{12} . . . Where is he? . . . ”

**HE SAID,**

{12} . . . I know not.”

**(V. 13)**, “They brought to the **PHARISEES** him that aforetime was blind.”

## **SCENE #2 – THE MAN BEFORE THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS**

**(V. 15-17)**, “Then **AGAIN THE PHARISEES ALSO ASKED HIM** how he had received his sight.

**THE MAN SAID UNTO THEM,**

{15} . . . He put **clay** upon mine eyes, and **I washed**, and **do see**.

**SOME OF THE PHARISEES**

{16}, . . . **This man is not of God**, because he keepeth not **the SABBATH day**. . . ”

**THE MAN SAID**

{16}, . . . How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? . . . ”

**S** THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS **REJECTED JESUS** based on the fact that He had healed the blind man on the **SABBATH**. Their line of **REASONING** was that if Jesus were from God, He would never have broken the Sabbath. **THE TRUTH IS** that **Jesus had not broken** the Sabbath. All Jesus had broken was **THE MANMADE RULES** that the religious leaders had saddled to the Sabbath.

**S** **RAY STEDMAN** gives some interesting insight into the rules the religious leaders had come to associate with the Sabbath. He states that Jesus had broken the manmade rules of the Pharisees in three

different ways.

(1) He **SPAT** on the ground. It was taught that to spit on a rock was acceptable, but to spit on the ground was not. Their reasoning was that spit on the ground would make mud and making mud was considered to be work.

(2) He had **HEALED** on the Sabbath and that was considered **work**. It was taught that, “If you find somebody with a **broken leg**, you can keep it from getting worse, but you cannot make it better.”

(3) He used the **MUDDY SPIT AS A MEDICINE**. Applying medicine was considered a form of work.

**S** That was the basis of their **EXCUSE** to reject Jesus. You talk about a **FLIMSY EXCUSE**.

**DR. STEDMAN** writes:

“. . . You are facing the greatest miracle, perhaps, this country has ever seen . . . and yet you argue about whether it is valid because Jesus did not sign the register properly; he did not do what you thought he ought to do on the Sabbath. . . . That is like giving someone a magnificent diamond and having it rejected because the box it came in is made of plastic! Such is the blindness of men.”

**S** Before serving as a **JOURNEYMAN MISSIONARY** for two years, I was convinced that the only thing that kept people from believing in Jesus was that they had never heard the facts about Jesus. Was I ever surprised to find how far off base that opinion was! Many people are just like **PHARAOH** of old. He did not lack evidence. He saw ten mighty miracles of God and he still rejected God to his very death.

**OTHERS SAID,**

{16}, . . . And there was **a division** among them.”

## THEY ASKED THE BLIND MAN AGAIN

{17} . . . **What sayest thou** of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? . . .”

## HE SAID,

{17} . . . He is a prophet.”

**(V. 18-23)**, “But **the Jews did not believe concerning him**, that he had **been blind**, and **received his sight**, **UNTIL** they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

## SCENE #3 – THE MAN’S PARENTS BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES

### THE PHARISEES ASKED HIS PARENTS TWO QUESTIONS:

{19} . . . **Is this your son**, who ye say was born blind? . . .”

{19} . . . **how then doth he now see?”**

### HIS PARENTS ANSWERED THEM AND SAID

{20}, . . . We know that **this is our son**, and that **he was born blind**: {21} But by **WHAT** means he now seeth, **we know not**; or **WHO** hath opened his eyes, we know not: **he is of age**; **ask him**: he shall speak for himself.

{22} These words spake his parents, because they **feared the Jews**: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. {23} Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.”

## SCENE #4 – THE MAN TESTIFIES A SECOND TIME BEFORE

### THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

### THEY SAID UNTO HIM

**{24}** Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. (Meaning Jesus)

## THE MAN ANSWERED

{25}, . . . Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

## THEY SAID TO HIM

{26} . . . **What did he** to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

**S** One **effective tactic** for examination by an attorney is to ask a person the same question stated in a variety of different ways. If a person is lying, it **is difficult** to keep the details of the lie straight. When telling the truth, it is much easier to keep that facts clear and straight.

**S** In his second interrogation, the blind man **showed no inconsistencies** in his testimony. In fact, his testimony was **so forthright** that the blind man began to ask his prosecutors if they wanted to be Jesus’ disciples.

## HE ANSWERED THEM,

{27} . . . I have **told you already**, and ye did **not hear**: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?”

## THEY REVEILED HIM SAYING,

{27} . . . Thou art **his disciple**; but we are **Moses' disciples**. {29} We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.

## THE MAN ANSWERED

{30} . . . **Why** herein is a marvelous thing, that **ye know not** from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. {31} Now we know that **God heareth not sinners**: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. {32} **Since the world began** was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. {33} If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

## THEY ANSWERED

{34} . . . Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us?

{34} . . . **AND THEY CAST HIM OUT."**

**S** Jesus knew the **FUROR** He would cause by healing the blind man because He healed him on **THE SABBATH** day. When Jesus healed the lame man by the pool of **BETHESDA** on the Sabbath, the religious authorities wanted to kill Jesus (John 5).

**S** Jesus healed the blind man on the Sabbath because He was working **"while it is day."** He knew **"the night cometh when no man worketh."** Jesus said in **MATTHEW 16:**

**C** (**Mat 16:18**), ". . . That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and **THE GATES OF HELL** shall not prevail against it."

**C** We tend to think that Jesus meant the church was to become a fortress with high walls and strong gates built around it to protect it from the onslaught of Satan. The opposite seems to be the truth that Jesus had intended. The church is to be a mighty force marching against the gates of hell. As God's kingdom moves forward, the gates of hell cannot withstand the onslaught of the church. The way for the gates of hell to fall is for the church to go forth in Jesus' name and take a risk of "faith."

## **SCENE #5— JESUS FINDS THE MAN**

**(V. 35)**, "**JESUS HEARD** that they had cast him out; and when he had **FOUND HIM**, . . .

**JESUS SAID UNTO HIM,**

{36} Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

**THE MAN ANSWERED**

{36} . . . Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

**JESUS SAID,**

{37} . . . Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

## THE MAN ANSWERED

{38}, ". . . **LORD, I BELIEVE.** And he **WORSHIPED HIM."**

**S** Jesus went to a lot of trouble to find the man and to heal him. The man responded by **believing Him** and by **worshipping him**.

**S** Jesus not only healed that man's physical blindness, He also healed his spiritual blindness. Jesus saved him.

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**GOD'S PROMISE** to all who respond to Jesus is found in **JOHN 1: (John 1:12-13)**, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: {13} Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

**S** Those verses tell us how to be saved. They use **THREE NEGATIVES** and **TWO POSITIVES** to communicate truths related to God's gift of salvation.

NEGATIVE #1

**#1. (V. 13), "WHICH WERE BORN, NOT OF BLOOD . . ."**

**S** **SOME PEOPLE ARE CONVINCED** that **PROPER ANCESTRY** ENTITLES THEM to membership in God's **FAMILY**.

**S** **THE PHARISEES** believed that because **Abraham** was their father, that such lineage made them members of God's family.

**(Mat 3:9)**, "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able **OF THESE STONES** to raise up children unto Abraham."

**S** **GOD DOES NOT HAVE ANY GRANDCHILDREN.** He only has CHILDREN. **IT IS POSSIBLE** to be born into a family as committed as **BILLY GRAHAM'S** and STILL NOT BE A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY.

#1. NOT OF BLOOD

## NEGATIVE #2

### #2. (V. 13), "NOR OF THE WILL OF THE FLESH" (NIV), "... NOR OF HUMAN DECISION ... "

**S** I ONCE WORKED WITH A MAN who stated plainly, that **HE INTENDED** to continue living his life like it was **A BIG PARTY** until he became an old man. At that time he intended to pray and accept Christ. **THAT MAN WAS CONVINCED** all one needed to be included in God's family was to make a **HUMAN DECISION**. He failed to understand **John 6:44** where Jesus said:

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: . . . "

**S** **HOW MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT ALL THEY HAVE TO DO** to enter God's family is to one day command their **FLESH** to become religious and then they will be included in God's family? To them membership in God's family is little more than **the power of POSITIVE THINKING**. They are convinced that all they will have to do is work up enough **religious emotion** and **treat** their neighbor as they want to be treated, then **GOD WILL BE OBLIGATED** to include them in His family.

**S** **THE TRUTH IS**, a person can work up the "flesh" to the degree that he is willing to attend one thousand **WORSHIP SERVICES, SINGS 10,000** religious **SONGS**, and cry buckets of religious **TEARS**, and still not be a member of God's family.

#1. NOT OF BLOOD

#2. NOT BY WILL OF THE FLESH

## NEGATIVE #3

### #3. (V. 13), "NOR OF . . . THE WILL OF MAN" (NIV), "... NOR OF ... A HUSBAND'S WILL ... "

- 1) **MANY PARENTS** are convinced that **all they have to do** is **MAKE A DECREE** for their children and their children will be included in God's family. That is how a physical child comes into the world. **A HUSBAND SAYS** to his wife, **"Let's have a child"** and over the course of time a child is born. **HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT HOW SPIRITUAL CHILDREN ARE BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY.**
- 2) **A MOTHER** came into her pastor's office to ask the pastor to baptize her daughter. Her reason for the request was her daughter had just turned **12 YEARS OLD** and she felt like that was the time for her to be baptized.
- 3) **PARENTS CANNOT MAKE THEIR CHILDREN'S SALVATION DECISIONS FOR THEM.** There are **no proxy decisions** when it comes to salvation. Each individual must make their own decision.

THREE NEGATIVES

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TWO POSITIVES

## POSITIVE #1

### #1. "RECEIVE" THE LORD JESUS (V. 12), "But as many as RECEIVED HIM, ... "

**S** **"RECEIVE"** comes from **"LAMBANO,"** which means to **"take,"** or to **"receive."** Rather than reject the Lord Jesus as the Pharisees did throughout the Book of John, receive Jesus. **RECEIVE JESUS** as your personal Lord and Savior.

**S** Receiving Jesus **IS VERY PERSONAL.** You have to do it **individually.** No one else can receive Jesus for you. It is

between you and God. Your **parents** cannot decide for you. Your **grandmother** cannot receive Christ for you. Your **pastor** cannot come to Christ for you. You have to make that decision yourself.

## POSITIVE #2

### #2. "BELIEVE" ON HIS NAME

(V. 12), "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that **BELIEVE** on his name:"

**S** **SOMEONE MAY BE THINKING**, "Are you telling me that **all I have to do** to be born into God's family is believe in Jesus?"

The answer is, "**YES**, that is God's requirement."

You might reply, "I have **ALWAYS BELIEVED** in God. I have **ALWAYS** believed IN JESUS CHRIST. I cannot remember a moment that I did not believe there was a God. I can't think of a time when I did not believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that He died on a cross and that He rose again."

**MANY PEOPLE** were right there in their thinking before they were born into God's family

**S** THE WORD FOR **BELIEVE** is also translated as "**COMMIT**," and "**TRUST**." That word is **MORE THAN MENTAL ASSENT**. It means "to **trust** with commitment;" "To **put all of your weight upon**." Belief with *commitment* is different from belief that simply *acknowledges* that something is true.

1) **A STUNTMAN** strung a cable high above **NIAGRA FALLS**.

Walking the cable he pushed a wheel barrow loaded with weight across the cable above the water. All the spectators applauded loudly as he made the trip. Upon arriving back on land, he asked how many believed he could safely push a person in the wheel barrow across the cable. Everyone applauded loudly indicating their agreement. Finally he asked for volunteers. There were **NO TAKERS**. They believe it could be done, but no one was willing to make the commitment.

**THAT IS A PICTURE** of many who say they believe in God but who refuse to commit their lives to Christ. They do believe, but it is not a commitment (trust) kind of belief.

2) Perhaps you remember **MR. "T" from THE "A" TEAM**. He believed that an airplane could carry him, but he refused to get on one. The only way he would fly was for them to knock him out, or to sedate him. (You can get a person on a plane by doing that, but you can't get a person in God's family that way).

3) A person may believe **WATER** can quench their thirst, but it does not good until they actually pick up the glass and drink it.

**C** You will **NEVER FLY** unless you get on the airplane.

**C** Water will **NEVER QUENCH** your thirst until you drink the water.

**C** You will **NEVER BE BORN AGAIN** unless you receive and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **HAVE YOU RECEIVED CHRIST?**

(Rom 10:13), "For **WHOSOEVER** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **SAVED**."

I. THE "NIGHT" IS COMING

II. WORK WHILE IT IS DAY

III. EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT

## IV. THE "BLIND" BECOME "BLINDER"

(V. 39-41), "And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. {40} And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? {41} Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth."

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**A WORD OF WARNING TO THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS—THE HEART GROWS HARDER** when a person rejects Jesus. The

heart of an unbeliever moves from the light toward the darkness so that it becomes darker and darker. If it persists in that darkness, it will be granted its eternal wish by being allowed to enter into what the Bible calls **OUTER DARKNESS**.

**S** **(Mat 25:30)**, “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into **OUTER DARKNESS**: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**S** **IF A PERSON INSISTS ON CONTINUING IN THEIR BLINDNESS**, God will grant their request. God has prepared a place of darkness for all who choose to reject the light. That place is called hell. It isn't so much that God sends a person to hell, as it is a person chooses to go to hell. God simply honors the person's request by granting their desire to keep God out of their life.

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**HERE IS WHAT A PERSON NEEDS TO DO.**

John 1:12; Romans 10:13; Matthew 10:32-33