

God Wants to Be Glorified in Your Situation

John 9:1-12

Facilitator: Louise P. McQueen

I. Biblical Context and Historical Background

In our lesson several weeks ago, we saw how some people prefer to live in darkness because that is what they like; still others are living in darkness without realizing that they are living separated from God in a universe overseen by Satan himself. God calls us to honor or glorify Him in our daily walk in this life. To glorify God in our situations requires full commitment to Him (Col. 3:23). As believers, we must emulate Jesus. Jesus always glorified His Father in Heaven. There was never a moment when He did not glorify God. Our Lord's every thought, word, and action was totally devoted to the glory of God. As Pastor preached in his sermon on September 5, 2021, "Make it Make Sense, Devil, Make It Make Sense", when Jesus faced the temptation of Satan (Matt. 4:1-11), Jesus quoted Scripture all three times. His examples in overcoming temptation offers hope to all of us who seek to stand firm during time of trusting and continue to give glory to God.

The **theme of darkness** that we saw in Nicodemus and the woman at the well narratives returns in this lesson. For Nicodemus, it was **Spiritual Darkness**. He was suffering from **Spiritual Blindness** which prevented him to *see* and *accept* The Light – Jesus Christ. Nicodemus claimed to know God, but failed to *see* Jesus! Even though he could physically *see*, **he was blind** due to *ignorance* and *arrogance* typical of the Pharisees! He was sinful and needed Salvation which only comes through Jesus Christ by faith! Even though, it didn't happen when Nicodemus came to visit Jesus at night, **God was Glorified in his situation** (John 19:38-42). The woman at the well was **Spiritually Blind** due to adultery and idolatry! She too needed to *see* and *accept* Salvation through Jesus Christ by faith! **God was Glorified in her situation when Jesus opened her eyes!** The man in this lesson has been blind since birth, and the only thing that he had ever known was darkness. He suffered from **Physical Blindness** which also *reduced him* to a beggar status.

II. The Lesson: God wants to be Glorified in Your Situation.

1. **vv. 1-3.**

The Bible indicates that both Jesus and his disciples *saw* the **blind man**. The way Jesus *saw* the blind man was different from the way His disciples *saw* him. We must understand that the disciples were no different than the Jews at the time because; they too were **Spiritually Blind**. *They too needed to learn, understand and see who Jesus really is!* Even though they followed Jesus to the end, their eyes were yet to be opened! That is why they asked Jesus saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind" (v. 2). Blind people would often earn their living by begging near the temple. Jewish people believed suffering and sickness was due to the sins of one's parents or forefathers and that all suffering was a punishment for sin. **A very good example of sickness without sin is Job**. Thus, they thought

that one could sin even before birth because they believed that life began at conception. *The disciples assumed that the blindness must be a form of divine punishment for sin. For them the question was seeking to understand whether the man's blindness was **caused** by his sins or by his parents' sins.* Of course, Jesus knows what the cause of the man's blindness is. And we all know that every human being is sinful. Jesus answered their question in the manner which prepared them to *see* and **understand** the reason for which God sent Him. *His words did not explain the cause of the man's blindness but the purpose. **Jesus focused His reply on what God can do in the blind man's situation!** In His reply, Jesus intended to prepare them as to why God sent Him – for God's mighty works to be displayed in the blind man's situation! In His reply, Jesus shifted the question away from "why" and on to "what" **God is able to do in the blind man's situation.** In other words, the man was born blind not as a result of sin, rather, in order for God's Mercy and Healing Power could be displayed in the man's situation – the blindness and the status of being a beggar! The world needed to *see* God's Power displayed in the blind man through Jesus! *We all need to know that God can be Glorified in our situations when Jesus heals us!**

2. vv. 4-5.

Jesus *saw* the blind man's situation as an opportunity to glorify God. Jesus *saw* an urgency to do this while it was still day—the time of His earthly ministry on earth with His disciples. Jesus had three years to accomplish all that His Father sent Him to do. That is why Jesus said that we must do God's works while we have the opportunity because the time will come when we will not be able to do them any longer. It was a word to motivate those of us who feel too busy or too selfish to fulfill our calling. Jesus was on a mission. His time on earth was limited. He had to complete His mission. Jesus knew that healing this man on the Sabbath would bring greater opposition from the religious leaders who already wanted to silence and kill Him. Yet, His Divine Purpose and His compassion for the man drove Him to do it anyway. *As believers, when we see suffering, do we see it as a problem or possibility?* For us, that should mean providing assistance in whatever way we can if we are able. Jesus had already declared Himself to be the "Light of the world" (John 8:12). Not only was Jesus spiritually the "Light of the world", but He would also provide the means of physical light for the blind man. When Christ was no longer in the world, then believers became the light of the world (Matt.5:14). *This means the essential mission of the Christian is to meet the world's needs.* The Christian's light is to clearly shine forth into the darkness. The smallest light can dispel the greatest darkness. As Christians, we must strive to glorify the Lord through our good deeds – works of love, compassion and kindness. In our daily walk, we should testify of His goodness and draw more of those in darkness into the Light!

3. vv. 6-7.

Jesus used what was undoubtedly one of his more unusual methods leading to a miracle. Just as God used the dust of the ground and clay to do a work of creation in Genesis, so Jesus did a work of creation with clay for this man. *The power of healing was in God, not the method.* The strange use of saliva in curing blindness is also found in Mark 7:33; however, in this case it was applied singly and mixed with soil or clay. Washing in water would not affect the healing of

the blind man's eyes; but an act of obedience by Naaman was required, to dip seven times in the river, to be cured of leprosy (2 Kings 5:10-15). John made it clear that it was a miraculous healing that occurred when the man obeyed by washing his eyes in the Pool of Siloam. His healing was a result of his obedience, faith in Jesus and the power of God. This was the first time in Biblical record a person born blind was healed of his blindness. From Genesis to John, no prophet, priest, or apostle ever gave sight to eyes born blind.

4. **vv. 8-12.**

The man's neighbors were astonished that the blind man could now *see*. ***Christ's miraculous healing glorified His Father!*** They knew him from birth. They knew that he was blind and that he was a beggar because of his blindness. His neighbors could not believe their eyes. Even his appearance had changed. The drastic change in the healed man caused many to believe that he was not the person born blind. *The healed man identified himself as the formerly blind beggar.* Now that he could *see*, his neighbors and the religious leaders were curious about how the miracle had happened. The man did not realize that Jesus was the Messiah. He referred to Jesus as a **"man who anointed his eyes and told him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam"**. After his sight was restored, he did not go back to Jesus. Therefore, he did not know where Jesus went or even who Jesus was. *He had trusted Jesus enough to obey His instructions, and now he was able to see. Instead of praising God for restoring the blind man's vision, his neighbors were disbelieving.* What was troubling was that no one in the crowd *rejoiced* with the healed beggar. ***Nevertheless, God was glorified in the healing of blind man's situation!***

III. Conclusion

The healing of the blind beggar *displayed* the work and glory of God in John 9. God was glorified in the miraculous healing of the blind beggar. ***All of us have situations which requires God's Healing Power! God wants to be glorified in our situations!*** Just like the blind man, we need to trust Jesus with our situations. Perhaps, someone has a situation or "condition" that needs healing. *No matter for how long you had the situation, Jesus is able to heal and restore!* ***God Wants to be Glorified in Your Situation!*** For God to be gloried in our situations, we need to let Jesus deal with whatever we are suffering from! God wants to manifest His Mercy, Grace and Power over our situations! **Let Jesus be God in your situation!**