Releasing the Blind Man

John 9:1-25

Introduction:

Seven Signs

1. Water into wine - John 2

2. Healing of nobleman's son - John 4

3. Healing of man at pool of Bethesda -John 5

4. Feeding of 5,000 -John 6

5. Walking on water -John 6

6. Healing of blind man - John 9

7. Raising of Lazarus - John 11

I. The Case – 9:1-5

A. It Was Difficult – 9:1

“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.”

Jesus’ attention was drawn to this hapless blind man. He was blind from birth. He was now “of age,” an adult.

B. It Was Debatable – 9:2-3a

“His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

His disciples are mentioned for the first time in these two chapters, but they must have been there all the time.

Note: all sickness is a result of sin – Adam’s sin. But, sickness is not necessarily the result of personal sin. The disciples were probably thinking about the sins of the parents on the children. That is more national than personal.

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus,” (3a)

If it were the sin of the son, what sin could he have committed before he was born? If the parent sinned, why is the child suffering?

C. It was Deliberate – 9:3b-5

1. To Reveal God’s Touch – 9:3b

“but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.”

\*\*Does God want everyone well, all the time? Obviously that is not the case here.

2. To Reveal God’s Timing – 9:4

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“As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”

Jesus uses the plural “we” to include the disciples and by extension, us, all of us. But the point in verse 4 is that His time to accomplish His work is coming to a close. He has only about 6 months.

3. To Reveal God’s truth – 9:5

“While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

He had the only source of truth available to man at that time. He made preparation for the Apostles to write down what He taught and further revelation. When the Holy Spirit came, He brought all things to their remembrance (the Gospels), He guided them into all truth (the Epistles) and He showed them things to come (prophecy) (John 14-16) Then using that revelation we are the light of the world. Time is still short!

II. The Cure – 9:6-12

A. The Man was Healed – 9:6-7

1. The Clay – 9:6

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“Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes.”

He is doing this miracle in “Brail”. The man needs to understand that the healing came from Jesus and that Jesus came from God. In verse 11the man tells them the details.

2. The Command – 9:7a

“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent).”

The word “sent” is interesting: It created by the “Sent One” He created all things. The “Sent One” sent him to the pool called “sent”. Then the healed man was a “sent one” He was to tell what Jesus had done for him and how He did it.

Is anyone here who was ever blind and Jesus came and gave you your sight and then said. “Go and tell!”

3. The Compliance – 9:7b

“So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.”

He acted according to Jesus’ word and Jesus’ word came true. He came home seeing.

B. The Man was Heard – 9:8-12

1. What the Multitude Said – 9:8-10

“His neighbors and those, who had formerly seen him begging, asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

Is this that same blind beggar?

“Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” (9a)

But he himself insisted,

“I am the man.” ﻿ “How then were your eyes opened?” they demanded.” (9b-10)

2. What the Man Said – 9:11-12

“He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

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Note: you don’t have to know everything in order to tell something.

Can you tell someone how you received your sight? Tell what you know.

“Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.” (12)

Admit what you don’t know. If it is important, find the answer and tell them as soon as you can.

III. The Clash – 9:13-29

A. They Attacked the Man’s Faith – 9:13-17

1. The Question – 9:13-15

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“They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

“They” Who it is who brought him to the Pharisees is not stated. It is several days later: Jesus is gone and there are no eye-witnesses.

The Pharisees ask how it happened and discovered that it was on a Sabbath Day. They did not go after Jesus as in 5:16, because they do not admit that He performed any miracle. If they admit the making of the clay, they must admit the healing of the blind man.

2. The Quibble – 9:16

“Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

“But others asked, “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?” So they were divided.”

3. The Quandary – 9:17

“Finally they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

“The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

They are still operating on the assumption that this man was not blind in the first place.

Now they turn to the (formerly) blind man for his opinion, “He is a Prophet!”

B. They Attacked the Man’s Family – 9:18-23

“The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents.”

The word “until” does not mean that “after they sent for his parents they believed.” It was not the “sending for the parents” that gave any information, it was the “talking to the parents”.

They asked them three questions

1. “Is this your son?” they asked.
2. “Is this the one you say was born blind?”
3. “How is it that now he can see?” (19)

﻿Answer

1. “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, and
2. “we know he was born blind.” (20),
3. “but, how he can see now, or
4. “who opened his eyes, *we don’t know*. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” (21)

Why did they not answer the last two questions?﻿

“His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.” (22)

The synagogue was not just the religious center of their lives. It was the social, business, etc.

“That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” (23)

He is an adult and he can talk, ask him!

C. They Attacked the Man’s Friend – 9:24-29

1. The Demand – 9:24

“A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

When the Jews say, “Give glory to God,” they are not saying, “You have received a great miracle, now give God the credit not Jesus.” They have not admitted that a miracle ever happened to him. The one group that thought it had happened (v.16) had apparently changed their mind, because they all apparently were in agreement now. What they are saying is, “come on, give God glory by telling the truth: you were never blind to begin with.

See Joshua 7:19﻿﻿

“Now Joshua said to Achan, “My son, I beg you, ﻿﻿give glory to the Lord God of Israel, ﻿﻿and make confession to Him, and ﻿﻿tell me now what you have done; do not hide *it* from me.”

2. The Debate – 9:25-27

“He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

Gaithers:

“Don’t pretend to be so wise,

I only know He touched my eyes

And nothing else will ever be the same.”

Paul had a similar answer in 2 Timothy 1:12

Conclusion: