

## John 9:1 – 23

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is moving logically and progressively amongst several practical subjects in the Gospel of John. In this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God, we meet a blind man who has never before seen the world around him. He was a man who had only ever known darkness. Of course, Jesus has been speaking to the apostles in the previous chapter about how He is the light of the world - and now we are presented with this account. By the end of our previous report, the religious rulers wanted to stone Jesus. If you have not read our last report, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. We saw what I consider another definite record of a miracle in the way Jesus escaped the religious mob in the temple; a mob that already had the stones in their hands to kill Him with.

That means when chapter eight took place, His time had still not come; as He had said to Mary at the wedding in Canaan. These Jews had accused Jesus of blaspheming as Jesus said, "before Abraham was, I am!" Jesus is God and God is the Great I Am of the Old Testament, friends – Jehovah! This is one tremendous claim to be making in the temple in Israel in the day that we are studying; and if Jesus isn't accurate, then the Pharisee's would be right - this IS blasphemy! However, we know that the Lord Jesus is exactly Who He says He is....

*1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.*

~ This incident could be construed as being connected to the final verse of the last chapter, but I don't think so. This seems to have occurred at some later point in time after the events with the woman caught in adultery, and the sermon that followed, and I think we can tell that by the literary mannerisms. It isn't critical information, but it does help put the timeline of Jesus traveling to and through Jerusalem at the time of His arrest in perspective. This is also the only record we have of Jesus healing a man with a congenital disease; and there are several other details about this incident that make it very unusual....

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*2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*

~ The disciples want to ascertain the cause of disease. They want to argue about who was to blame for causing this to happen. It's a common and jejune topic of discussion in the church today. Well, blindness is surely the most unfortunate loss that can come upon an individual. I can only imagine that the loss of any other sensory faculty would be better than losing sight. That sun may be annoying when you're trying to drive the car, but it's nothing compared to the click of the cane of a blind man tapping on the pavement. Unexplainably, most blind people, particularly Christians, are very cheerful and optimistic people - for the most part; and we're going to find out that there is, in fact, something worse than being physically blind. In many cases of blindness, it is the result of the sins of the parents. That's not always true, of course - but sometimes it is. Sometimes, it's not the blind persons fault or sins that caused it, either. Accidents and other things happen that are not sin or faults of the individual or of the parents at all. But let's remember, God has to permit those things to happen....

*3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

~ And that is one hard pill to swallow, my safari friends - because it causes many well-meaning people to jump to the conclusion that this man was some sort of a spiritual guineapig. Well, the important thing is not to probe around attempting to ascertain who's guilty or not. It doesn't really matter what happened. What does matter is: the man is blind NOW – here in this day and time as he interacts with the Lord at the time in which we are studying – and he needs to be healed immediately. This man needs something done for him. You may exert an ounce of prevention, and it might return a pound of cure; but after a man falls ill, we need to concentrate on the all-important cure. Jesus has the cure....

*4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

~ This, of course, refers back to the original statement Jesus made about being the light of the world. The night makes everyone blind by preventing them from seeing. Christ is the only spiritual light in this world. Without Christ, men would be utterly blind, and multitudes are blind right now. Some people reading this report cannot discern anything spiritually. You will remain as blind as a bat until the Holy Spirit opens your spiritual eyes and brings light to them, friends. Christ is the light of the world...

*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,*

~ There are multitudes today who stand directly in the presence of Christ, but they're blind and cannot see Him. Apparently, judging by the record, Jesus touched this man, but the man still had to obey. Christ must open our spiritual vision and bring new life to a dead spiritual optic nerve. It doesn't matter who sinned to cause this because ALL have sinned. We all come short of the glory of God. Do you really want to sort out who the biggest loser is? That seems like a profound waste of time, don't you think? If Christ hasn't touched your eyes, then, friends, you aren't seeing.

So many Christians are totally blind, but they do not understand their blindness. Pilate asked, "... what is truth?" – Well, Pilate was standing in the presence of truth - the Lord Jesus. Pilate just couldn't see it. Many are standing in the light and can't see Him. Like Pontius, they aren't saved – not even close. We see this in vast droves around this forum on which I teach. I like to think that someone has read along in our study of the Word of God and have had their eyes opened as a result. When I'm honest with myself - I have to admit that I seriously doubt that....

*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.*

~ Using this method, the man never sees the Lord Jesus. Interestingly, the Lord has him go through a ritual, too. This is a picture of having Christ touch us and of us obeying Him. See, it doesn't matter what you think, and it doesn't matter what I think, either. What matters is what the Word of God says, and what Christ thinks and what He said - and says - to us today in His Word. Then, it begins to matter if we act upon, and trust and obey His voice. Trust and obey because there is no other way in this life, friends – no other way to be happy than to trust God and obey His commands. This blind man is definitely healed, and it was done in an unusual way compared to all the other healings we have seen in the Gospels. What that means is that the methods are not essential at all. What is important is the power of God and our obedience to Him. We have a whole lot of blind people who only want to argue what method we should use when coming to Christ. The funny thing is, they are always the ones who have never really believed Him or obeyed Him....

*8 The neighbours 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.*

~ Today, there are always many opinions about those who have been healed by Jesus. In the contemporary liberal church, genuine conversions are suspicious. That's because their doctrine doesn't require any change in the heart and life when one "gets saved." They typically cannot define salvation succinctly. They always talk about how YOU need to repent - but they never get around to their own repentance. Well, a great change has taken place when a man who was blind from birth suddenly has sight given to him. The way he looked changed - AND the way he saw changed, too. Naturally, the crowd can't believe it's the same man. Well, the man identified himself - but he's just not the same anymore. If your eyes are opened, you're going to appear different to those around you, too. Salvation is really just as simple as that, quite frankly. All we have to do is come to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to show us the way. If you'll just do that, then you will experience the power of God and, my friends, we sure need the power of God in our lives today....

*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.*

~ You would think people would have been rejoicing that this miracle had taken place in his life. Even a cold-blooded church member should be able to sing the benediction in this situation, but not this religious group of people. Notice how the Pharisee's literally don't know what to do next. A man who was born blind - and was well-known around town as such - is now walking around seeing - and they cannot deny it. Most people who even bother to read this section of Scripture correctly and carefully are aghast at the reaction from the Pharisee's. I know I am. All they care about is whether it happened on the Sabbath.

Well, we find the same controversy amongst contemporary Christians who incessantly argue non-essential doctrines attempting to make intellectual biblical points until people laugh at Christianity. All the while, they claim to make this world a better place, even as the world is clearly going to hell. Jesus didn't keep the Sabbath day - He fulfilled it; Jesus didn't do things their way - because He is God. Men today are not interested in the truth, my beloved. They merely need to cause confusion to garner attention, and it is amazing the petty peccadilloes people pick out of Scripture in an attempt to get away from the truth. Confront this person's contradictions

and they become thoroughly dangerous. Well, this blind man thinks Jesus is a prophet - but that's simply unacceptable to the Pharisee's....

*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.*

~ It would have been absolutely impossible for the religious rulers to deny that a miracle had taken place. They resort to bringing the healed man's parents in to try to pull them out of their self-inflicted religious difficulties. It seems so easy to deny the miracles of Christ today; but they didn't deny the miracles at the time in which we are studying. These parents are, obviously, in fear of excommunication from the temple, so they do not commit to this argument on any level. All they do is re-state the facts.

This is the same religious conniving we see in Christians today. It's actually one of the most pernicious things imaginable. Instead of meeting together to pray about getting the Word of God out to the lost man so he can see again – let alone supporting the man who does – they are busy bickering non-essential Bible points and, as a result, they hinder the work of God on literally every level. How tragic they really are. This healed man's parents aren't about to take the bait because they know the Pharisee's are only looking for someone to murder. They despise this man's healing. They are angry with their brother without cause. And that's where our safari is going to leave off in this controversy, but we'll pick it up again in our next report ~

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