

## Miracles and the Messiah- Miracle 6-John 9

- Quick review of lesson from last week and purpose of this series.
- With John's purpose being to prove that Jesus is God. How did walking on water prove Jesus is God? (Think about Peter walking on water as well. Only God could walk on water, but also only God could allow someone else to walk on water and only God could rescue Him. Peter had to put his complete trust in Jesus(God) to walk on water and be saved.)
- **Intro story or illustration**
  - I don't have the best eyesight. I wear glasses and contact lenses to help correct my vision. I have since 4th grade. Thankfully I'm not blind, but if I don't wear my lenses or glasses I have a hard time seeing. There was one time though that I felt I could see better without my glasses than with them. Tell XC story about fogged up glasses. It was this incident that convinced my parents to get me contacts.
  - Thankfully I wasn't completely blind, I could follow the blob in front of me. But could you imagine being blind and running a race? There are people who do it, but they have someone run with them holding their arm. Today, we're going to look at a story where Jesus heals a blind man and teaches us about what it truly is to be blind.
- As we go through today's lesson I want you to consider a few questions
  - How does this miracle prove Jesus is God?
  - Why do the disciples think someone's sin was what caused the man to be born blind?
  - What is Jesus trying to teach us through what He says to the disciples?
  - Is there more than one way for someone to be blind?
- Read John 9
- **What happened? What did Jesus do?**
- **Retell the story**
  - Jesus and His disciples passed a man born blind.
  - His disciples asked, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

- **Why do you think they asked that?**
  - It was widely held that suffering, and especially such a disaster as blindness, was due to sin.
  - **Do you find yourself believing that every bad thing that happens to you is because you did something wrong?**
  - They weren't necessarily wrong that it occurred because of sin, but as Jesus will say, it wasn't his or his parents' sins that caused his blindness.
- Jesus responds by saying neither. He was born blind so that God could be revealed in him.
  - First, Jesus said that the man's blindness — essentially a birth defect — was not caused by some specific sin on the part of the man or his parents. Birth defects and other such tragedies are sometimes due to sinful behavior of the parents. Yet far more often — and in the case Jesus spoke of here — it is due simply to sin and our fallen condition in general, not due to any specific sin. The sin of Adam set the principle of death and its associated destruction in the world and we have had to deal with it ever since.
- Jesus then explains He needs to do the work God sent Him to do, He also says He is the light of the world.
- Jesus takes dirt, spits on it and puts it in the guy's eye. Then He tells the man to go wash it out.
- When he does, he can see.
- Everyone knows this man was born blind and were astounded that he could now see.
- Now, the Pharisees and leaders of the temple saw he was healed, and they were mad. But not that he was healed, but that he was healed on the sabbath.
- Here we have this silly issue of doing work on the sabbath.
- Essentially long story short, they want to find out who healed him, the man obviously didn't really know because he couldn't see Jesus at the time. Because of this he was excommunicated from the temple.
- Jesus hears the man was cast out of the temple, reveals Himself to the man.
- The Pharisees hear Jesus talking to the man and hear him explain that "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."
- The Pharisees ask were we born blind also?
- **As we look at this conversation between the Pharisees and Jesus, are they talking about physical blindness?**

- **What kind of blindness are they talking about?**
  - Spiritual blindness.
  - The Pharisees sneered at Jesus, confident in their own spiritual sight — which was blindness, because they could not see the Son of God right in front of them.
  - Glasses illustration—When I first needed glasses I didn't want them because I thought they didn't make me look cool. But then in a little league game I dropped an easy fly ball that I would normally catch because I couldn't see the ball. After that I made sure to wear my glasses or contact lenses. The point being that once I realized my need for them I didn't mind wearing them, its the same with God. When we realize we need God to take away our sin, we don't mind relying on Him.
  - Jesus says, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains."
  
- **What do you think Jesus was trying to teach through His statement to the disciples, and His conversation with the Pharisees?**
  - God can and will work through our weaknesses or shortcomings for His glory. He wants us to be aware of our need for Him to take away our sin.
  
- **Is there more than one way to be blind?**
  
- **How does this miracle prove Jesus is God?**
  - This miracle proves Jesus is God because only God has power to forgive sin, and only God can give sight to the blind, physically and spiritually.

**Take away from this lesson-**

There is more than one way to be blind. We can be spiritually blind, especially to our sin. Jesus came into the world to open our eyes so that we could see our need for Him to take away our sin and restore the relationship with Him.