

TONIGHT'S READING



THE NEED OF THE BLIND (3)

Scripture Reading:

John 9:1-11 ¹And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ²And His disciples asked Him, saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind? ³Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but he was born so, that the works of God might be manifested in him. ⁴We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. ⁶When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed his eyes with the clay, ⁷And He said to him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is interpreted, Sent). He went therefore and washed and came away seeing. ⁸The neighbors then and those who previously saw him as a beggar said, Is not this the one who used to sit and beg? ⁹Some said, This is he. Others said, No, but he is like him. He said, I am the one. ¹⁰They said then to him, How then were your eyes opened? ¹¹He answered, The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and said to me, Go to the pool of Siloam and wash. I went therefore and washed, and I received my sight.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

John 6:63b ...the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

John 9:35-38 ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and He found him and said, Do you believe into the Son of God? ³⁶He answered and said, And who is He, Lord, that I may believe into Him? ³⁷Jesus said to him, You have both seen Him, and He is the One speaking with you. ³⁸And he said, Lord, I believe; and he worshipped Him.

John 10:27-29 ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸And I give to them eternal life, and they shall by no means perish forever, and no one shall snatch them

out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand.

HOW THE LORD JESUS GIVES MAN SIGHT

After saying that He would work the works of God, which is to open man's eyes, and that He was the light of the world, the Lord Jesus spat on the ground, made clay of the spittle, and anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay (John 9:6). He did this to open the eyes of the blind man and to give him sight. Then He told the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam (v. 7). Although this seems insignificant, it is very significant. If we consider the context of what the Lord Jesus said in these verses, we will understand their spiritual meaning. There are four crucial steps in this portion.

The first crucial step is related to the spittle, which was something out of the Lord Jesus. In this portion spittle signifies something that comes out of the Lord Jesus, or we may say that it proceeds out of His mouth. Therefore, spittle signifies the words that proceed out of the Lord Jesus' mouth (Matt. 4:4). John 6:63 says that the Lord's words are spirit and are life. Hence, spittle also signifies the Lord's words of life. The second crucial step is related to the clay, which signifies man. The Bible says that man was made of clay (Job 33:6; Isa. 45:9; cf. Rom. 9:21). Therefore, the Lord's making clay of the spittle signifies that His word enters into and is mingled with men of clay. The third crucial step is related to anointing the eyes of the blind. In the original text the word *anointed* in John 9:6 is related to the anointing of an ointment. This refers to the Holy Spirit as an ointment coming to anoint man. When the word of the Lord Jesus enters into man and is mingled with man, the Holy Spirit must come and anoint man. Man must let the Holy Spirit move in him in order to anoint his blindness.

Hence, if we want our inner eyes to be opened, we must take these three steps. The first step is for the word of the Lord Jesus to enter into us. The second step is to let the word of the Lord Jesus mingle with us. The third step is to let the Holy Spirit anoint us. After we read the Bible and spiritual publications or after we listen to a message, we should spend some time to ponder over what we have read or heard. Then the Lord's word will mingle with us, and the Holy Spirit will simultaneously anoint us through His moving and anointing. In John 8:12 the Lord Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." It is possible to read this verse several times but not have the reality of this verse, because we have not allowed this word to enter into us and be mingled with us. However, if we read this verse and spend a few minutes to meditate on it, this word will mingle with us, and the Holy Spirit will anoint us. As a result, we will be enlightened to realize that we were previously in darkness but have now been enlightened by the life of the Lord Jesus. These three steps, however, are not sufficient. There is a fourth step.

The fourth crucial step is related to going and washing in the pool of Siloam. The word *Siloam* means “sent,” and it also means “obedient.” Obedience involves believing. Hence, going and washing indicate believing and obeying. If the blind man had not gone to the pool of Siloam to wash off the clay after being anointed, the clay would have blinded him even more. Likewise, if we do not believe and obey after hearing the Lord’s word and being anointed by the Holy Spirit, we will become blinder. Let us consider John 8:12 again. Here the Lord Jesus said, “He who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness.” Suppose someone has heard and understood this word but has neither believed nor obeyed it. He may say that this is merely the Lord’s reasoning and may question how people living in the world today can be delivered from darkness. Such a thought indicates that he is not willing to “go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” As a result, he will become blinder.

The Lord ordered the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. There were many places with water in the land of Judah, so why did the blind man have to go and wash in the pool of Siloam? This was to test whether he would obey. When the blind man obeyed, his eyes were opened. When the Lord gives us a command, He is also testing us. We may consider the Lord’s command to be irrelevant, but our eyes will be opened if we obey.

It was not sufficient for the blind man to go to the pool of Siloam; he still had to wash away the clay, that is, to bury the clay in the water of the pool. The spiritual significance of going to the pool of Siloam and washing away the clay is to put the self to death by believing and obeying. This will open our inner eyes so that we will be able to see spiritual things.

We should not think that this interpretation is unfounded. This interpretation is based on many Christians’ spiritual experience. Someone may listen to the words of the Bible, but the words will not benefit him if he does not let them mingle with him. Hebrews 4:2 speaks of this. The children of Israel heard the word of God, but they did not mix the word with faith; they did not allow God’s word to be mingled with them. As a result, the word that they heard did not profit them. After the word is mingled with us, we still need to let the Holy Spirit move and anoint us. Then we also need to believe and obey. Finally, we need to put the self aside, in the place of death, without any reservation.

A person may have heard the gospel many times but with no result. However, one day when he is reading the Bible, he may notice Mark 16:16, which says, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved,” and this time it is as if the Lord Jesus mixed His spittle with clay and anointed his eyes. The word that has proceeded out of the Lord’s mouth is mingled with him, and the Holy Spirit works to anoint the Lord’s word in him. At this juncture he feels that he should be baptized immediately. He is very clear within that the Lord wants him to be baptized. This is equivalent to the Lord telling him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. Then he decides, “Yes, I will go and be baptized.” However, even though he has made the decision, he begins to consider other matters and is unwilling to immediately obey by being

baptized in the water. As a result, there is a long delay. While he delays, there is a speaking within him: “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Have you not decided to be baptized? Why are you still considering?” Nevertheless, he does not obey. During this time he is confused and befuddled when he listens to a message or reads the Bible. However, the Lord is not willing to let him go and questions him seriously, “Are you still unwilling to be baptized? How long will you wait?” If he obeys, he will be like the blind man whose eyes have been anointed with clay and knows that he must go and wash in the pool of Siloam. After he is baptized, he will be inwardly enlightened immediately. This indicates that the clay of his self has been washed away in the water. This is why his inner eyes are opened. From that day onward, the Bible will be open to him, and he will be able to listen to messages with understanding.

When the Lord’s word is mingled with us and the Holy Spirit anoints us, we should believe and obey and put the self in the place of death. If we want to preserve the self, it will be a lump of clay covering the eyes of our heart and preventing us from seeing. If we take the four steps revealed in John 9 by receiving the Lord’s word, letting the Lord’s word be mingled with us, allowing the Holy Spirit to move and anoint us, and believing and obeying by putting the self to death, our inner eyes will have sight.

MAN BELIEVING IN THE SON OF GOD TO BECOME THE LORD’S SHEEP

The Lord Jesus opened the eyes of the blind man, and then He led the blind man to know and believe that He is the Son of God (vv. 35-38). Man must believe that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God in order to have eternal life. When man’s inner eyes are opened, he knows and believes that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God. By knowing the Lord Jesus and believing that He is the Son of God in order to receive eternal life, the blind man became the Lord’s sheep and was able to hear the Lord’s voice and understand His word. In spiritual matters hearing is seeing. When a person hears and understands the Lord’s word, he sees the things spoken of by the Lord. Those who become the Lord’s sheep have eternal life and are kept by the Lord’s powerful hand and by the Father’s loving hand. They are secure forever. This also means that they are saved. Such a salvation is not a salvation from ordinary things. Rather, it is a salvation in which the Lord opens man’s eyes, gives man eternal life, and then keeps and protects him in His and the Father’s hand.