

Character of Christ – Jesus Heals the Blind Man

2 Peter 3:18 (NASB) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

John 9:1-38 (NASB) 1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." 6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, 7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing. 8 Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" 9 Others were saying, "This is he," still others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one." 10 So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is He?" He *said, "I do not know." 13 They *brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 So they *said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." 18 The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, 19 and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does 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 how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. 23 For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24 So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." 25 He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" 28 They reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." 30 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. 31 "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. 32 "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard th"at anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered him,

"You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." 38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

John 9:1-3 (NASB) 1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

This is one of the greatest statements I've ever heard about someone's physical ailment. The disciples were looking at this man with their physical, temporal eyes but *Jesus saw him for what he was to become.*

These men viewed this blind man from a temporal perspective.

Jesus viewed him with an eternal perspective.

Have you ever wondered how God views your physical limitations, your perceived shortcomings, your weaknesses? Look no more.

He views them as opportunities to work through you in order that He might be honored and glorified. AWESOME!

Displayed - phaneroō (fä-ne-ro'-ō) - to make manifest or visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way

Jesus loved people and He desired a relationship with them. His miracles were performed though, to prove who He was, that the Father sent Him:

John 5:36 (NASB) 36 "But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish--the very works that I do--testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

So when Christ tells His disciples that this man's situation wasn't about sin He meant it. God was planning on using this man's situation to show His great power, His approval of His son and His love for people.

John 9:8-12 (NASB) 8 Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" 9 Others were saying, "This is he," still others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one." 10 So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is He?" He *said, "I do not know."

Saw him as a beggar - notice how these neighbors identified this man. He had always

been a beggar. His identity for them was who he was externally. So much so that when he was no longer doing what they had always identified him with (a blind beggar) some didn't even physically recognize him (temporal or worldly perspective)

Notice though that this isn't how Christ saw this man at all. Christ saw this man for what He was going to be, a broken vessel but a vessel that God could use. Someone that God was going to use to display His works (eternal perspective).

12 They said to him, "Where is He?" He *said, "I do not know."

Do you think this man wanted to know where Christ was? I would have to say absolutely he did. This man had to have questions, he must have wanted to actually lay eyes on the person who healed him from his blindness...he could see all these things now but hadn't seen yet the man who'd healed him.

John 9:17-23 (NASB) 17 So they *said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." 18 The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, 19 and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does 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 how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. 23 For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

It is at this point that I begin to feel sorry for this man. Some of his neighbors don't believe that he is the same guy who was previously blind, the religious leaders don't believe him, his parents come in and acknowledge that he is their son but they stop short of supporting him completely...they are unwilling to support their son's story about how he was healed.

I wonder if this **stung** just a little bit for him. But he continues his steadfast support of Jesus.

John 9:25-35 (NASB) 25 He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" 28 They reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." 30 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. 31 "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. 32 "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put

him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

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This is such a sad testament of how backwards man gets things. What are these guys concerned with here? Their reputations? Their perceived authority on religious things?

Jesus had this to say about these religious leaders:

Matthew 15:12,14 (NASB) 12 Then the disciples *came and *said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement...14 "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

Jesus helps frame up and point out what He views as true blindness, it's not physical blindness but spiritual blindness.

Spiritually blind people don't judge matters through an eternal lens or perspective, they judge matters with a temporal lens or perspective. Unfortunately, when people like this are put in authority their decisions have some pretty far reaching consequences (as a note of clarification a believer can judge matters via a temporal lens as well, we are called to have a higher, eternal perspective but it doesn't mean we will grow into having that perspective. A none believer simply doesn't have that choice, all they have is the worldly, temporal perspective).

So they put him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

This verse tends to give me goose bumps.

Quick recap, this man who was blind from birth is first accused of being a sinner by the disciples of the very man who is about to heal him. He's healed, people want to know where the man is that healed him, he's brought before the religious leaders who now question whether he was really born blind so they bring his parents in. His parents confirm he was born blind from birth but sadly will not completely support him in how he came to have his sight. The religious leaders then put him out.

Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him... Jesus went looking for this man. He heard about the mistreatment he had been receiving because of Him and He goes and finds Him.

What a great example for us to read of the type of Savior Jesus Christ is. He went looking for this man Himself.

...He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

This brings me to a question. Has there ever been a person walked on this planet that was a better evangelist than Jesus? Let's think about this, Who knew the message better than Jesus Christ? Who knew what better to say than Jesus Christ? Who filtered every thought and was in perfect harmony with the Father and Spirit at all times other than Jesus? NO ONE. Jesus is the message...He lived the message.

Why point this out? Because notice again what Jesus' (the perfect evangelist) message was: **"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"**

Why does Jesus ask this man this? Why doesn't Jesus ask this man to **repent of his sins?** Why doesn't He ask this man to **believe and be baptized?** To make sure to **count the cost before believing** and be sure that he's willing to **make him Lord and be obedient and persevere to the end?**

Why would the greatest evangelist ever go all this way to find this man only to give him a partial message of salvation? Because those things are not part of the salvation message.

John 3:14-16 (NASB)14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:36 (NIV) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Jesus is consistent with His message of salvation for this man: **Do you believe in the Son of Man?**

Simple...no spiritual hoops or gymnastics needed. Do you believe?

36 He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

Notice the man's response. I wonder if deep in his heart he was hoping beyond all hope that this person he was talking to could introduce him. He knew that this person had performed a miracle for him might He be able to introduce him?

Imagine what his heart did when Christ said the following:

37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."

Christ presents Himself to this man. No strings attached. He came back to find this man and offer this man the gift of all gifts. He doesn't promise to take away any of the issues that have just happened in this man's life. He has simply now made what ought to be priority, priority.

38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

What is going on in this man's heart?!

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NASB) 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

In closing, let's remember what Jesus said all the way back in verse 3:

3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

While the disciples had to have been wondering what Christ meant here, I wonder if in Christ's mind He was thinking you all have no idea how much this man is going to display the works of God. John, you are going to write about what you see here today and countless people are going to read about it and study it. This man is going to be an example, **he's going to be displayed so that all might know what is required for salvation. And not only today but his story will endure, his story will be discussed until I return.**

John 9:39 (NASB) 39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."

John 3:16 (NASB) 16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

As we close I want to offer up two closing invitations:

THE FIRST - The first invitation is to those in this crowd who may have never taken the time to deal with the most important question in all of eternity: Do you believe in the Son of Man? Do you believe that it is Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone who can save you from your hopeless state? There is nothing that you need to do but to turn to Him and place your trust in Him for your salvation. You don't need to come down to the front to do that.

Do you know why? How far did Jesus go in our story to find the blind man? Remember how far He went? He went all the way to that man. Do you know how far Jesus went to meet you? He has come all the way to where you are sitting. You simply accept His free gift of grace.

THE SECOND - The second invitation is for those of you in the crowd who have accepted Jesus' free gift. You have believed. I invite you to take some time and thank Him for the indescribable gift He has given you. You and I were that blind man in this story. Jesus Christ came all the way to us, **He sought us out and offered Himself to us.** I invite you to take a few moments and just thank Him. **You and I's future is beyond anything that you and I can comprehend because of His sacrifice and our acceptance of it!**

Because of what Jesus did for you and I, **you and I are able to say:**

John 9:25 (NASB) ...one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."