

MIRACLES OF JESUS

FULL SIGHT- JOHN 9:1- 41

A. Context

1. Jesus declared that He is the Light of the World, John 8:12, *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*
2. Jesus will heal a man born blind, giving light to one who has always been in darkness.
3. There is no record of a person born blind being given sight.
4. Healing of the blind is the work of God Psalm 146:8, *the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.*
5. This miracle will show how the light of Christ brings some to believe on Him and bring others to reject Him.

B. Jesus gives physical sight to a man born blind (1-7)

1. Hatred of Jesus by religious leaders was increasing rapidly (1), ***As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.***
 - a. *As He passed by*
 1. It is in reference to Jesus' statement in Mark 8:58, *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."*
 2. Many in the crowd picked up stones to throw at Him but He passed by.
 - b. Jesus saw a man on the side of the road.
 1. Jesus had compassion on a blind man despite a dangerous situation.
 2. All mankind is spiritually blind from birth which is why Jesus came into the world.
2. Jesus' disciples asked Him a question about the blind man (2), ***And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"***
 - a. They wanted to know whose fault it was that the man was born blind.
 - b. They accepted the religious notion that sickness is a result of sin.
 - 1) It must be the sins of the parents.
 - 2) Or, it must be the sins of the man.
 - 3) Regardless, sin has to be the cause of having been born blind.
 - c. Warren Wiersbe, *The disciples did not look at the man as an object of mercy but rather as a subject for a theological discussion. It is much easier to discuss an abstract subject like 'sin' than it is to minister to a concrete need in the life of a person.*
3. Jesus explained that infirmities can be used to glorify God (3-5)
 - a. Sickness is not necessarily the result of sin.
 - 1) Here, the merciful works of God will be displayed in the blind man (3), ***Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.***
 - a) Lazarus, John 11:40, *Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"*
 - b) William Taylor, *...through his case, the tenderness, the compassion, the grace, and the power of God might be made manifest to men.*
 - c) Thomas Constable, *The disciples viewed the man's condition as an indication of divine displeasure, but Jesus saw it as an opportunity for divine grace.*
 - 2) Jesus pointed out that God brings good out of evil not why there is evil.
 - a) We must focus on the practical instead of wasting time on things out of our control.
 - b) The *why* is not nearly as important as the *what* God wants me to do.
 - c) Warren Wiersbe, *Only God knows why babies are born with handicaps, and only God can turn those handicaps into something that will bring good to the people and glory to His name.*
 - b. The works of God are to be done during the day not the night (4), ***We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.***
 - 1) Day is the time appointed to do the work of the Father.
 - a) *we must work*
 - 1] Jesus spoke of His working.
 - 2] Also, it included His disciples and all who follow, us.
 - b) *while it is day*
 - 1] William Taylor, *...day, here in the general sense of the season of opportunity.*
 - 2] Ecclesiastes 3:1, *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

- 2) Night is the time when the work of God is completed on earth.
 - a) For Jesus, the night to come would be His death on the cross.
 - b) For us, it is our death or the rapture of the church.
- c. Jesus' purpose is to do the works of God since He is the light of the world (5), *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*
 - 1) John 1:4-5, *In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*
 - 2) John 8:12, *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*
4. Jesus heals the man born blind (6-7), *Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.*
 - a. Jesus made clay out of His spit and mud and put it on the blind man's eyes.
 - 1) The clay would not be the cause of the cure.
 - 2) It gave the man encouragement that something special was about to happen.
 - a) The man could hear and feel what Jesus was doing.
 - b) William Taylor, *It gave him something to build upon. It raised his hope.*
 - c) It directed the man to Jesus Who is the one curing the man.
 - b. Jesus told the man to go wash his eyes in the pool and the man went.
 - 1) The man was told to do something and he did it.
 - 2) It was a response of faith in Jesus' command even though He did not know who Jesus is.
 - 3) The man probably wanted to get the mud off his eyes but there was hope that he would be able to see for the first time.
 - c. The man came back with sight.
 - 1) A man who had never had sight came back with perfect vision because He obeyed Jesus' command.
 - 2) Jesus performed this miracle not only out of compassion for the man but that testimony would be given to the truth that Jesus is the Light of the World.
 - 3) All who obey Jesus' command to believe on Him receive spiritual sight.
- C. Responses to the miracle (8-34)
 1. Reaction by his neighbors and acquaintances (8-12), *The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10 So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."*
 - a. Neighbors did not recognize the blind beggar.
 - 1) There was a great change in the man.
 - 2) The man cried out that he was the man.
 - 3) The people wanted to know how such a change could take place.
 - 4) The man told them the change came because of Jesus.
 - b. Often, family and friends don't recognize one who receives spiritual sight.
 - 1) The change is great when one passes from death to life.
 - 2) R. V. G. Tasker, *The change wrought by regeneration in the converted Christian is so great that other people often find it difficult to believe he is the same person; so it was with the physical change effected by Jesus in the blind beggar.*
 2. Reaction by the Pharisees (13-17), *They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."*
 - a. The neighbors took the man to the Pharisees.
 - 1) Was it to encourage the religious leaders to change their opinion of Jesus?
 - 2) Were they so troubled by the change in the man that they wanted the religious leaders to make sense out of it?
 - b. The Pharisees interrogated the man.
 - 1) It was on the Sabbath that the incident took place.
 - 2) They asked the man to tell them how he received his sight.

- 3) There was a division among the Pharisees.
 - a) Some of the Pharisees responded that Jesus was not from God because He performed this miracle on the Sabbath.
 - b) Others wondered how a sinner could do such a thing?

- 4) The Pharisees asked the man born blind his opinion of Jesus.
 - a) He responded that Jesus is a prophet since He performed such a wonderful miracle.
 - b) His faith was growing since his first comment to neighbors was that them man was named Jesus.

3. Reaction by the parents of the man born blind (18-23), *The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."*
 - a. The religious leaders did not believe that the man had been born blind.
 - b. They asked the man's parents how he could now see if he was born blind.
 - 1) The parents affirmed that he was their son and that he was born blind.
 - 2) They said they did not know his eyes were opened or who did it.
 - c. The parents said they should speak to their son directly.
 - 1) The parents feared the Pharisees.
 - 2) Religious rulers had threatened to put anyone out of the synagogue who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah.

4. Reaction by the Pharisees one more time (24-34), *So for the 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." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.*
 - a. The Pharisees told the man to acknowledge that Jesus is a sinner.
 - 1) They considered Jesus a sinner because they misunderstood the law of God.
 - 2) They were trying to force the man to call Jesus a sinner by telling him to give glory to God, Joshua 7:19, *Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."*
 - b. The man did not know Jesus but he did know his testimony.
 - 1) He didn't know if Jesus was a sinner.
 - 2) He did know that he had always been blind but now he could see.
 - c. The Pharisees asked him to tell them again how he regained his sight.
 - 1) The man said I already told you.
 - 2) Then, he said, do you want to become His disciples?
 - d. The Pharisees showed their anger by berating the man and Jesus.
 - 1) The called him a disciple of Jesus but they were disciples of Moses.
 - 2) They declared Moses to be greater than Jesus.
 - a) They knew God spoke to Moses.
 - b) They didn't know where Jesus is from.
 - 3) The man ridiculed them for their lack of understanding.
 - a) They didn't know where Jesus came from but He opened the eyes of a man born blind.
 - b) God doesn't listen to sinners but only to those who worship God and obey Him.
 - c) He declared that never had a man born blind received his sight. If Jesus were not from God He could not have done this.
 - 4) The man was kicked out of the synagogue.
 - a) The Pharisees accused him of being an absolute sinner because he had been born blind.
 - b) The same mistaken belief seen in the disciples was used to justify their action.
 - c) The man was the first one mentioned in John's Gospel to be persecuted for his testimony to Christ.

- D. Jesus gives spiritual sight to the man born blind (35-41)
1. Jesus located the man so He could complete the miracle (35-38), *Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.*
 - a. Jesus asked the man if he believed in the Son of Man
 - 1) The man did not know who He was but was willing to believe in Him.
 - 2) Jesus said He is the Son of Man.
 - b. The man said He believed in Him and worshiped Him.
 - 1) The man could no longer worship in the synagogue but now, he worshiped at Jesus' feet.
 - 2) His spiritual journey was complete.
 - a) In verse 11, he called Jesus by His name.
 - b) In verse 17, he called Jesus a prophet.
 - c) In verse 33, he called Jesus a prophet who had come from God.
 - d) In verse 38, he called Jesus, Lord.
 - c. The man born blind could not only see with his eyes but now with his heart.
 2. Jesus give the man spiritual instruction (39-41), *Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.*
 - a. Jesus came to give judgement in response to His light (39)
 - 1) The blind will respond to the light and see.
 - 2) Those who think they see will be blinded by the light.
 - 3) Tom Constable, *Jesus' primary purpose was to save some, but in doing so He had to pass judgment.*
 - 4) The light of Christ received takes one from death to life but the life of Christ rejected takes one to eternal death.
 - b. The Pharisees wanted to know Jesus' opinion of them (40-41)
 - 1) They asked Jesus if they were blind.
 - 2) Jesus said they were spiritually blind because they rejected their need for Him.
 - a) He told them their sins remained because they would not acknowledge their blindness, John 3:19, *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*
 - b) Charles Ryrie, *...because they claimed spiritual insight and knowledge of the law, they were all the more guilty.*

CONCLUSION

- A. Jesus cares about our physical needs.
- B. Religion blinds man of his true need, faith in Jesus Who alone can forgive sins.
- C. Jesus calls mankind to faith so we can see physically and spiritually.