



JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

JOHN 9:1-11

Icebreaker

This is a question meant to generate discussion among the group and build relationships with one another.

When you have gone back to your high school reunion, were you more surprised by how much some people are changed, or were you more surprised at the people who have not changed at all? Why?

Context

There are no direct references to help us determine the setting, but there are clues that give us an idea of when and where this story takes place. Probably the most important information is that Jesus sent the man He healed to the Pool of Siloam. The Pool of Siloam plays a role in the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Additional information comes from the literary connections between this passage and the previous chapter. The use of water for the cleansing and the connection with light/seeing in the healing gives it a close connection with the Feast of Tabernacles. Finally, there is another “I am” statement (though not as strong as at the end of chapter 8) that provides a connection with the previous chapter.

Passage

John 9:1-12

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 was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ 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.



⁸ 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."

Sermon Notes

Jesus heals a man born blind *John 9:1-12*

7 Ministry Insights

1. Take the time to LISTEN to people's stories with empathy. *v. 1 – As he passed by, he saw a man 'blind from birth'*
When they share it, keep the confidence. It's a sacred trust.
2. DOCTRINE matters because what you believe determines your actions. *v. 2-3 – ...who sinned? It was not that this man sinned, or his parents...*
We learn what is true from God's Word. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*
3. God WORKS TO USE suffering for His purposes. *v. 3 – ...but that the works of God might be displayed in him.*
 - In the life of Jesus on the CROSS
Isaiah 53:3-5
 - In the lives of CHRISTIANS
2 Corinthians 1:8-10
4. When God leads you in ministry, DON'T DELAY.
v. 4 – Night is coming when no one can work.
The Spirit leads us to make the most of every opportunity. *Eph. 5:15-18*
5. Jesus is the SOURCE of what everyone needs.
v. 5 – I am the light of the world.
6. Jesus always CONFIRMED what He claimed.
v. 6 -7– He anointed the man's eyes with mud... he went and came back seeing.
7. This incident is a portrait of GRACE.
 - A. Jesus GOES to the man.
 - B. Jesus KNEELS by the man.
 - C. Jesus REVEALS His identity to the man.



D. Jesus _____TOUCHES_____ him and gives him new life.

E. His obedience is the _____EVIDENCE_____ of grace.

Post Sermon Questions

If your group is meeting after hearing the sermon, here are some basic questions to discuss among the group.

1. What did you like about the sermon, or what was one of the more important things you heard in the sermon?
2. What was something in the sermon that caused you to have questions?
3. What did we learn about Jesus in this passage?
4. What do we learn about man (or human nature) in this passage?
5. Are there any sins we need to confess because of this passage?
6. Are there any actions we should take in light of this passage?

Discuss

Read verses 1-3.

How many blind people are in these verses?

What is something you have been blind to going on around you, and you were surprised when you finally "saw" it?

What do the disciples assume to be the reason for this man's infirmity/suffering? What does Jesus say is the reason this took place?

The question asked by the disciples touches on the subject of suffering and why it occurs. This is an especially important question when you understand that God is good and what He does is good. It can be understood through the question, "How is there suffering and evil in the world if God is good and created a world that is good?" The question assumes that if there is evil in the world, then God must not be good by allowing it.

The world God created was good. However, Genesis 3 tells us how sin entered in the world and ushered in death to the creation. Sin marred the image of God each person bears, the sin of Adam led to all people after him having a sin nature, and the creation



itself was marred through sin. All of which leads to the suffering and pain we see in the world.

The last 6 months has unleashed a wave of suffering all around us. A short list would include fear of the virus, economic uncertainty, isolation, depression, losing loved ones with limited or no funerals, unable to care for loved ones in the hospital, being separated from loved ones in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, etc. Did I mention social unrest, division, and anger rampant in our culture?

Key word: Theodicy

The fancy word to describe suffering and evil in the world created by a good God is "theodicy." Theodicy is understanding the goodness of God in light of suffering and evil in the world. Why does a good God allow suffering and evil into the lives of people? Here are 8 potential reasons why a person may suffer.

1. Satan (Job 1:6-12)
2. Eschatology or culmination of history (Isaiah 24:17; Matthew 24 & 25)
3. Punishment and Retribution (Matthew 21:19; Mark 11: 13, 20; Acts 5:1-5; Luke 16:19-24)
4. Discipline (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 5:8; James 1:2)
5. Probation or evidence (Psalm 37; Habakkuk 1:12-17)
6. Revelation (Job 42:1-6; Hosea; Romans 5:2-5)
7. Mystery (Ecclesiastes 1:1-12)
8. Redemption (Genesis 27-50; Isaiah 40-55; 1 Peter 2:21-25)

When a person experiences suffering, what are some ways that God's glory can be displayed in the midst of that suffering?

Read Romans 8:28. **Does this mean that all things that happen to people who love God will be considered "good?"**

Now read Ezra 8:22 and Ecclesiastes 8:12. **On this side of eternity, does only good things happen to "good" people and bad things happen to "bad" people?**

Read verses 4 & 5.

What "night" is Jesus referring to in this passage?

Read verses 6 & 7.



What is unique about the healing of this blind man compared to other healings in the Gospels?

Read 2 Kings 5:1-14 (particularly 3, 10-14). **How is the story of Naaman similar to the story of this man born blind? How important was the obedience of going and washing by Naaman and this man to their healing?**

The word "sent" is important in this passage. Who was "sent" and how does that apply to Christians today?

Verses 8-12

Look at verse 9, who is blind now?

Why do you think some of the people claimed, "He is like him" instead of accepting that he was the same person? How does understanding why some of these people refused to believe help us understand why some people reject the Gospel?

What do you think was going through the mind of this formerly blind man when some doubted he had really been healed? What can we learn from this man's situation when we apply it to evangelism?

Next Steps

If you are suffering, whether it is physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually, please reach out for help. Do not suffer in silence or suffer alone. People want to help you find healing. Read Hebrews 13:5 and Deuteronomy 31:8.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you eyes to see those who are hurting and suffering. Consider whether or not you have been blinded to the opportunities to minister to people around you.

