

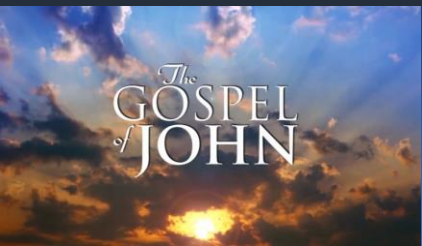
John 9

Sign of Healing the Blind Man

- The Problem of Suffering
- The Sign
- The Conflict

The Problem of Suffering

- The Picture
 - No Social Security, parents unable to help him
 - Had to beg at the gates of the Temple
- The Question – “Who sinned?”
 - Parents? – Ex. 34:6-7 (Cf. Ezekiel 18:20, Deut. 24:16)
 - Him? – Job 8:3-7
 - Someone had to have sinned for this to happen!
- The Answer – Focus on Purpose, Not on Cause
 - “My power is perfected in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:7-10)
 - Suffering always has purpose in relation to God’s glory (Genesis 50:20)



“...so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

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The Sign

- Why the clay in the eyes? Why didn't Jesus just command the healing to take place as He has before?
 - Testing of faith?
 - Go and wash in water to be healed?
 - Because it was the Sabbath (14-16)?
- What sign was Jesus trying to show them?
 - Isaiah 42:1-7
 - Appoint you (My Servant) as a light to the nations
 - Open blind eyes
 - Bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those who dwell in darkness from the prison

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- “This man is not from God”
 - Making mud was a violation of the Sabbath
 - Application of medicine also a violation
- Didn’t believe he had been blind and received sight
- Put out of the synagogue
 - Lighter offenses: 30 days, no contact with anyone
 - Heavier offenses:
 - No contact; avoided as a leper
 - Could not engage, hire, sell to, provide for, etc.
 - Could last for the remainder of their lives
 - Fear of man’s punishment stronger than belief in God

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- The logic of the blind man
 - The fact he knew: “was blind but now I see”
 - “We know that God does not hear sinners”
 - Micah 3:4 “He will hide his face”
 - Isaiah 1:15 “I will hide My eyes from you”
 - Proverbs 28:9 “He who turns his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination.”
 - Does God ever hear sinners?
 - No one has EVER had their eyes opened from blindness
 - “If this man were not from God, He could do nothing”

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- The path of belief
 - “The man who is called Jesus” (v.11)
 - “He is a prophet” (v.17)
 - “Lord, I believe” (v.38)
- Had no fear of the punishment of men, even “spiritual” men
- Needed to know who Jesus was so he could believe!
- “For judgment I came into this world”
 - What about 3:17? Cf. 3:19
- “If you were blind you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘we see,’ your sin remains.”
 - You have to know you are in the dark to want light
 - Revelation 3:14-18

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