

# **Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus**

**25) Once I Was Blind, But Now I See (1)**

***'Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing'***

**(John 9:1-7)**

# 1) To the disciples he was a case for theological curiosity and speculation

- ✓ They showed no interest in *helping* him, only in discussing the cause for his condition
- ✓ Who sinned? In Jewish theology, only sinful people suffer
- ✓ Jesus didn't endorse their theology
- ✓ He directed the question away from 'why' to 'what can God do in this situation'
- ✓ Our focus should not be on the Tower of Siloam, but the Pool of Siloam

- ✓ **This was another sign. We are to go to the One who was *sent* (Siloam) for our salvation**
- ✓ **Blindness from birth is a picture of original sin, '*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me*' (Psa.51:5). We '*were by nature children of wrath...*' (Eph.2:3)**
- ✓ **He was blind, so unable to see the Saviour when approached by Him. Jesus took the initiative**
- ✓ **Clearly, a work of God, '*The LORD opens the eyes of the blind*' (Psa.146:8). And the Messiah, '*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened*' (Isa.35:5)**
- ✓ **The use of dust represented re-creation**
- ✓ **The method of healing may have seemed foolish. But he obeyed – he went and washed**

*'Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know"'*

**(John 9:8-12)**

## 2) To the neighbours he was 'he that sat and begged'

- ✓ **The transformation was so great they did not know if it was him. 'It is him.' 'It's not.' 'It looks like him.' 'It's me!'**
- ✓ **Though a familiar sight in the neighborhood, it appears they didn't even know his name**
- ✓ **'A man called Jesus...' They didn't know his name, but he knew that the One who healed Him was called Jesus. He never even saw Jesus until later**
- ✓ **There will be a growing revelation of Him, as there is with us**

*'They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."*

*Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet"*

**(John 9:13-17)**

### **3) To the Pharisees he was a tool for their purposes**

**\*The Pharisees had been telling people that Jesus was a deceiver. Now what will they say?**

**\*Their immediate response was that He had violated the Sabbath. He was a repeat offender**

**\*Therefore, He was a sinner and the miracle from the wrong source**

**\*The Sabbath was made for man...It was given as a blessing, not a curse**

**\*There was a division among them. Either Jesus is a sinner, or their understanding of the Sabbath is wrong. There was a division between those who accepted Him and trusted Him, and those who did not**



**\*'How can a sinner do such things?' 'If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear' (Psa.66:18). 'The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry' (Psa.34:15). 'The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous' (Prov.15:29)**

**\*They asked the man: 'What do you say about Him?'**

**\*'He is a prophet'. This is the same conclusion as woman at the well and the multitude after feeding of 5,000**

**\*They couldn't get the man to discredit Him so they went to his parents. Like those in Acts 7:57 they stopped their ears to the truth**

***'But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him"'***

**(John 9:18-23)**

**4) To his parents he was a threat to their standing in the religious community**

**\*The Jewish leaders were clutching at straws now. Maybe the whole thing was a fraud**

**\*If the parents were seen to be siding with Jesus they could have been excommunicated**

**\*This was serious. The excommunicated was cut off from all religious, economic and social life. Fear of the Jews is common in John (3:2; 7:13; 12:42)**

**\*Persecution and ostracism from the religious community was promised to the disciples. *'They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service'* (Jn.16:2)**

**To Jesus he was someone in need of compassion**

**\*The disciples speculated. Jesus was not interested in his past, but in his future. Not how did he get this way, but what can we do for him?**

**\*The neighbours were detached. Jesus was in the world, as the light of the world**

**\*The parents did not want to get involved. The fear of man set a limit on how much they wanted to get involved. It outweighed their desire to give the glory to Jesus**

**\*The Jews wanted to use him for their purpose**

## Jesus' work is to do people good

**\*I must work... Unless there is that imperative there will be little impact**

**\*I must work; some must speculate, debate, isolate, find fault, etc. But we must work**

**\*I must work the works of Him that sent me. Not just, 'I must do something'. If you don't know what God wants you to do, you will end up doing what others want you to do**

**\*The most glorious of all God's works is displayed in the saving of lost**

**\*While it is day. Night = death or departure from this world. While we are in the world**