

“The Power Jesus” Part 7
John 9

The human condition leads us to believe that we are the good guy in the stories of life, most often. I have found it to be hard to convince us otherwise. In our own eyes we tend to see ourselves as being right. Even when the evidence overwhelmingly reveals otherwise, we rarely admit blindness. Unfortunately, this is often to our own detriment. In our miracle story this morning this human condition is at work. A refusal to recant, a refusal to believe in the face of overwhelming evidence. With this said, let’s dig deeper into this miracle of Jesus. There is much here, but I will make no attempt to give it all to you, just three things.

First thing, Jesus has power over misfortune. V1-7 “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 mud⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.” This man’s blindness was not the result of his sin or his parent’s sin, contrary to the normative belief of Jesus’s day. A belief that attributed illness to acts of sin by the parents and/or the unborn. A belief that in many ways remains prevalent today. Unfortunately, it is

still commonplace for those who face misfortune in life to believe and/or question what bad thing; what sin did he, she, or they commit to bring about such misfortune, or punishment from God. So, the disciples, based on the common belief of that time, asks Jesus, “Who sinned?”. And he responds, contrary to common belief, that this man’s blindness was not the result of anyone’s sin but rather so that the works of God may be done. As hard as it might be for us to attribute misfortune as means of God’s grace, as opportunities for exhibitions of Jesus’ power, it is so. This is not to make light of the suffering or sorrow we endure as the result of misfortune. This man’s blindness resulted in him becoming a beggar and certainly being viewed as a social pariah. He suffered, but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. So that they and we might learn and believe that Jesus has power over misfortune (the unpleasant things we endure, no fault of our own).

Gen 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

John 11:14-15a “¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Second, sin, ultimately, is the rejection of Jesus as God in the flesh, God incarnate. V13-17 “¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So 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." ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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." This miracle of Jesus is more about spiritual blindness than physical blindness. Let us be reminded that every miracle Jesus performed was done to make clear that he was God in the flesh, God incarnate. In John's gospel Jesus' entrance into the world creates a decision point for every human being. When one encounters Jesus a decision point has been reached. Is he in fact the Son of the living God, the Messiah, the Christ, God in the flesh or is he simply a man (V11), a prophet (v17) and/or miracle worker (V32). This question plays out in the man's progress to profession of faith that finally occurs in V38. It also plays out in the Pharisees rejection of Jesus, revealing their spiritually blindness, their sin. Where do we find ourselves in this drama? Are we like those who reject the overwhelming evidence and in doing so reject that Jesus is God incarnate and therefor remain blind, remain in sin? Or are we like this man realizing we need spiritual sight. **V35-38** ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him."

Third and final thing, Jesus' power beckons a bold and fearless response from us. V29-34

²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ 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. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.”

When it comes to sharing our belief in Jesus are we timid? Do we allow ourselves to be intimidated by the threats of others, threats of alienation, slander, being labeled intolerant, unloving, etc.? This man was bold in the face of excommunication from synagogue life, which was surely a sentence to loneliness and poverty, among other things. Why? He could not ignore what Jesus had done for him.

And before someone rejects the notion that Jesus has not done in your life something along the level of what he had done in this man's, don't forget you were once blind too, spiritually, and Christ opened your eyes. Why do we yield to nonbelievers when comes to speaking what we profess to believe about Jesus? I amazed how reluctant we can be and yet the world is so bold in what it believes and does not balk at sharing it. The Pharisees did not mince words when it came to stating how they viewed Jesus and neither does this man. Glory be to God for his boldness even though he had yet to come to full understanding. Make note, Jesus finds this man after he has been excommunicated and

finishes the work he started in him. Be bold in your profession of faith, for whatever it may cost you it will not cost your relationship with God/Jesus.

Luke 9:26 “For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

Matt 10:28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**