



Sermon Series: ALL SIGNS POINT TO JESUS

To be used with Session: The Sign of His Light

Sermon Title Possibilities: JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Scripture: John 9:1-11, 30-33

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “All Signs Point to Jesus” this sermon demonstrates that only through Jesus can we truly see. The Bible says that the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of the invisible God (2 Cor. 4:4). While the afore mentioned is true, there is another equal and opposite truth, “none are so blind as those who refuse to see,” which means, that despite Satan’s attempts, people are ultimately responsible for their own blindness to the truth. However, in Jesus, God offers the way for us to “...come out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9).

Introduction: According to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (iapb.org), 1.1 billion people are living with vision lost, of which 43 million people are totally blind. The World Health Organization states that vision is “the most dominate of our senses...without vision, we struggle to learn, to walk, to read, to participate” (who.int). The leading causes of vision impairment and blindness are refractive errors and cataracts.

The Bible says, “where there is no vision, the people perish” (Prov. 29:18 - KJV). The “refractive errors” of sin and the “cataracts,” of Satan blind us to truth, and both work together to try to prevent us from learning about God, reading His Word, walking with Christ, and participating in His kingdom. However, Jesus declares that He is the “light of the world,” and anyone who follows Him “will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (*John 8:12*). Jesus has come to shed light, not only to show us the truth (*John 14:6*), but to help us walk in the truth. In His prayer for His disciples, He prayed, “Sanctify them in truth, your Word is truth” (*John 17:17*), and Psalm 119:105 states, “Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.” “When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey” (Public Domain).

JESUS IS LIGHT (9:1-5)

While Jesus acknowledged the possibility that personal suffering may be the result of sin (*John 5:1-14*), Jesus also corrected the false assumption that there was always a direct correlation between sin and suffering as the Rabbi’s taught. This was the same false

assumption that Job's friends were under as they leveled charges of sin against Job because of his suffering. God corrected that wrong perspective (Job 42:7-9). This serves as a reminder of the importance of reading the Bible for ourselves and not assuming that the person who's teaching us is always correct.

Blind people were often at the mercy of others and found throughout Israel begging and hoping that people were in a giving mood (Mark 10:46-52). This man served as a metaphor for John because spiritually speaking, one of the themes of John's Gospel is that the person who lacks light, lacks true life. Jesus is the true light who has come into the world, to give life and life in abundance.

This man being born blind, meant that he was always in darkness. Jesus stating that He is the light of the world, harkens back to Genesis 1, where the earth was already in darkness, and God said, "let there be light" (Gen. 1:4). Therefore, Jesus doesn't just restore this man's sight, He creates it. As the light of the world, Jesus not only shines light into the darkness of our lives, but as Creator, He also creates new life in Himself (2 Cor. 5:17).

JESUS GIVES LIGHT (9:6-11)

Jesus initiated a healing process that wasn't prayed for. God does bless us, not necessarily with what we've verbalize, but the desires of our hearts, always for our good, but more importantly, to His glory. Glory always reveals some aspect of who God is. In this case, it reveals that "God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him" (1 John 1:5). However, knowing that God is light, doesn't mean that things immediately get better. Sometimes, they get worse. And it is not always at the hand of the enemy, sometimes it's from the hand of God (Luke 4:1-3)! But while the enemy puts us through to tempt us, God puts us through to test us (Luke 4:3-13), to move us from knowing Him to trusting Him (Proverbs 3:5-6), even when we can't see what's He's doing (2 Cor. 5:7).

Jesus never told this man that if he obeyed, he would receive his sight. However, despite no promise of healing, the man obeyed. While obedience does not always bring physical healing, it does bless us in unexpected ways. The man not only comes back seeing, but there is such a profound change in him, that he was unrecognizable to many people who previously knew him. The change not only gave the man the opportunity to testify to the change in his life, but to also testify to the one who brought about the change. Jesus gives light so we testify to Him being the light.

JESUS SHEDS LIGHT ON WHO HE COMES FROM (9:30-33).

After testifying to those who previously knew him about receiving his sight from Jesus, the man was now afforded the opportunity to take the witness stand and testify before the Pharisees. After hearing the man's testimony, many of the Pharisees concluded that because Jesus broke the Sabbath (according to their interpretation) by making mud, which they considered work, and no one was to work on the Sabbath, that Jesus was a sinful man and

therefore it was impossible for God to use a sinner to open a man's eyes. We must be careful not to cross-examine truth through the lenses of our traditions, causing us to misinterpret Scripture, and blind us to a move of God.

Even after confirming with the man's parents that he was born blind, and questioning him again, it was not enough for the Pharisees to accept the truth about Jesus being from God because they had already predetermined that He was not the Christ. A foregone conclusion forfeits our objectivity because we only accept what confirms our conclusion and reject what doesn't. We make it difficult on ourselves to honestly determine the truth if we've already drawn conclusions about a person or a problem before we hear the evidence. The irony is the man who was blind, but now could see, clearly saw that Jesus was from God. The Pharisees who claimed to see were the ones who were blind (John 9:40-41) because they refused to see that Jesus had come from God.

Conclusion: The apostle Paul is a prime example of a person who had drawn the conclusion that Jesus was not the Christ, and not only condoned the murder of a Christian (Acts 7:57-60), but persecuted Christians (Acts 8:3). It was only after he had an encounter with the Resurrected Christ and made blind, that he finally was able to see (Acts 9:1-19).

None of us are beyond being so influenced by teachers, by culture and by tradition that we have some foregone conclusions about certain things. Have you encountered what appears to be a move of God and have rejected it because you've already predetermined the impossibility? Is it based on what you were taught without examining the Scriptures yourself? Is it based on truth or tradition? Are you a part of a group that only confirms what you already believe? When you examine Scripture, do you only seek out the verses that align with your beliefs? All the afore mentioned are reasons the Messiah was rejected. The Bereans searched the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true (Acts 17:11). It is the everyday effort to seek the truth, not our truth, which keeps us true to God.

Bio: Dr. Jerome F. Coleman is lead pastor of the First Baptist Church of Crestmont, Willow Grove, PA, shepherding God's flock for 16 years. He has been happily married to his wife Kim for 28 years and is currently vice-president of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention.