

Life & Death (Pt. 4)
John 9:1-41 “Born Blind...”
Pastor Bill Bowers
March 26, 2017

Sermon Notes / Outline

Primary Text John 9:1-41

“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.” (John 3:19-21 NIV)

- **Christ and Christians heal *both* bodies and souls.** Christians have always been involved in healing ministries of the *total* person.

- **Spiritual blindness is worse and more common than physical blindness.**

- **When you know that Jesus heals your blindness, you worship him.**

*Be careful, little eyes, what you see,
Be careful, little eyes, what you see,
For the Father up above is looking down in love,
Oh be careful, little eyes, what you see.*

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LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- Reading from John's Gospel, chapter nine verses one through three (Jn 9:1-3). What do you think about these words from Jesus as he explains the reason for the man's blindness? It is often easy for us to accept situations that are far removed from us, but what if you are this "blind man" and your situation is through no fault of anyone direct or you. "He was born blind so that's God's works might be revealed in him" (John 9:3 NRSV).
- Can you determine the significance of Jesus using spittle (saliva) as part of the means of healing for the blind man? Can you explore the ancient Jewish laws and check if "spitting" or saliva was considered an impure act? Were there legitimate reasons to suspect that saliva might be a means to healing? What can you find and what impact does it have on this account? Who might have witnessed the event? (John 9:6:7). Are there additional details you notice with this healing (John 9:6-12).
- In this narrative, we are told that the healing took place on the "Sabbath" (Jn 9:14). Can you recall or find other references where Jesus healed on Sabbath days? Was there a significance or reason that Jesus would perform this (or these) miracle(s) on this day?
- Why do you think the Jews refused to believe the man had been born blind? (Jn 9:18) Why do you think the religious leaders continued to refuse acknowledging the miracle performed by Jesus? (Jn 9:24-34)
- While this particular account focuses on the literal and physical blindness of a man, the bigger story is addressing the issues of spiritual blindness and separation from God. Why do think the Pharisees and the religious leaders were so adamant in their refusal to "see" clearly the presence of God in their midst? Are there places in your life where God might be present and you refuse to "see" Him?
- Jesus leveled a very serious admonishment toward the religious people of the day in the closing statements of this narrative (see John 9:35-41). How might these words relate to us and impact us? "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Jesus went on to say, "You say that you see...your sin remains" (Jn 9:41). Can we become or are we those that Jesus admonishes? Why or why not?