

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

I Was Blind, Now I See

Last time...the confrontation between Jesus Christ and the Pharisees in John 8 concluded
Before Abraham was, I AM...a direct declaration by Jesus that He is God
Which the Jews understood, as evidenced by their desire/attempt to stone Jesus

This time...the man born blind receives sight

We have been 2 months studying 4 or 5 days in the ministry of Jesus Christ
Let's quickly condense it so we get the flow and the context of what happens now

John 7...the Feast of Tabernacles and an atmosphere of fear (John 7:11-13)

John 7:14...Jesus teaching in the Temple

John 7:31...miracles testified of Jesus' identity and many people believed

John 7:37-38...the last and great day of the Feast, Is 12 just recited

John 7:43...division because of Jesus

John 8:1-11...on the day after the last and great day of the Feast, a woman taken
in the act of adultery, as a rouse to stone Jesus

John 8:12...I AM the Light of the world, with major confrontation that followed

John 8:58...Before Abraham was, I AM

John 8:59...understood, but Jesus walks out of the Temple

The record of Jesus' ministry continues in John 9

v1-2 passed by...blind from birth:

As Jesus is leaving the Temple (John 8:59), He saw a beggar (v8, asking for alms)
who was blind from birth

The disciples also see the man but do not know why he is blind, so they ask Jesus,
"Who sinned that he was born blind – him or his parents?" (he's not deaf!)

The disciples are raising perhaps the "thorniest" and most difficult of life's
questions: Why is there human suffering in the world?

There were several prevalent thoughts about that issue at the time in Israel/Judea

- The Jews taught that a child was part of his/her father, and therefore would suffer for the father's sins, up to the age of 13; hence Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Some Rabbis also adopted the teaching of the Greek philosopher Plato: men pre-exist as spirits waiting for a body (Mormons believe this); some spirits are good and some are bad, the body is given for testing of the spirit on earth

- Other Rabbis also taught the “Job’s friends” answer to suffering: bad things happen to bad people, trials/tribulations/afflictions are the result of sin (cause and effect); v34
- Still other Rabbis taught that the suffering was God’s judgment of sin a result of His foreknowledge of what that person would do in his/her life

Those “answers” to the question of suffering are all man’s thoughts, opinions, doctrines of man, the product of human reasoning

What is the doctrine of God, Whose thoughts are so much higher than man’s?

Gen 3...the fall of man, the curse of God

Ezk 18...the soul that sins shall die, father for his, child for his

Matt 5:45...sun rises and rain falls on both just and unjust

Good things happen to all people

Bad things happen to all people

1 Cor 15:21-22...death came by one man, Life came by one Man

Heb 9:27...it is appointed unto man once to die, and then the judgment

Suffering is the fruit of original sin

All men have a no-good sin nature

Suffering is NOT God’s judgment of sin

Charity, Jordan, Sienna, Mary are wicked, being judged by God?

God forbid!

v3 Neither...but works of God:

Jesus flatly refutes all the doctrines of men

Both the man and his parents are sinners, but his blindness from birth is not due to either his sin or his parents’ sin

Additionally, God neither orchestrated nor allowed his blindness from birth, but will use it to glorify Himself (Rom 8:28)

v4-5 I must work the works:

The works the Father gave His Servant/Messiah

Is 35:5-6 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing

John 3:16-17 to save, not to condemn

2 Cor 5:18-20 ministry of reconciliation, man to God by Jesus Christ (work)

Is 53:10

John 8:28-29

while it is day:

John 8:12 I AM the Light of the world (repeated)

James 1:17 sent from the Father of lights

1 John 1:5 God is light and in Him is no darkness at all

John 1:5 His life is the light of men

2 Tim 1:9-10 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

During the ministry He was given...now because darkness is coming!

Light and Life working against darkness and death

v6-7 made clay...anointed the eyes:

Jesus the faithful Servant of God is going to heal this man of his blindness...who

- probably has overheard v2-5
- as a beggar in the Temple, probably has heard Jesus teach
- might even recognize His voice

How did Jesus heal this man (never get his name)?

1. made clay (dust + spittle)

An act of re-creation (Gen 2)?

Asserting to the Pharisees that the Sabbath (v14) was for man, not man for the Sabbath?

Mark 2:23-28

2. anointed his eyes with the clay
3. told him to go wash his eyes in the Pool of Siloam/"Sent"
A test of faith

From the Temple, the Pool of Siloam is south and about ½ mile downhill to the place where the 3 valleys meet

Therefore it is reasonable to assume that this encounter takes place on the
Southern Steps of the Temple

[Southern Steps 1]
[Southern Steps 2]
[Southern Steps 3]
[Southern Steps 4]

What did the man born blind do?
He did not hesitate or negotiate
He obeyed, by faith

When was he healed?
When Jesus anointed his eyes with the clay?
When Jesus spoke, telling him to go wash?
When he, by faith, obeyed...went and washed?

Regardless, he was healed, given sight, came seeing...for the 1st time in his life!!!
Imagine his unspeakable joy!
It seems he went straight home...to literally see his parents for the
1st time (!!) because...

v8-12 neighbors...this he that sat and begged:

His neighbors (his parents' neighbors) saw him...and did not recognize him
He looked radically different

- his eyes were alive
- his face was more full
- his countenance was brightened, radiant

This "new person" was witnessed by many witnesses
"Is this the blind man that sat and begged (at the Temple)?"
"Yes"
"I'm not sure...it kinda looks like him"
"Hey guys, it's me!"

The man born-blind-but-now-sighted affirms that he is this "new person"
All the neighbors and all the others wanted to know how it happened
And the man gave witness – the simple truth, all the facts.
Notice how the man refers to Jesus: "A man named Jesus"
Notice how that changes as this day progresses

The man knows neither where Jesus went nor what Jesus looks like

But now, his blessing is going to turn into a faith-building ordeal

v13-15 They brought to the Pharisees:

Why did the man's neighbors and others bring him to the Pharisees?

To give testimony of and glory to God?

To submit a complaint, this being the Sabbath?

Whatever the motive, they tell the Pharisees what happened...

Repeating what they had heard...v11

One who was in darkness is now in light

On the Sabbath...echoes of John 5:1-18, 18 months ago

Then (v15) the Pharisees initiated what will turn out to be a severe investigation into the matter; they again asked the man himself how he had received his sight

The man's faith will be further tested in this merciless interrogation

The man stands on the simple truth and all the facts,

so simple a child could understand

v16 some...others...division:

The reaction of the Pharisees to this miracle was...divided

Some: This man (Jesus) is not of God because He breaks the Sabbath

i.e. did not receive the teaching of Jesus in Mark 2:23-28

This is their opinion, their human reasoning, based on their legalistic religion

They did not deny the miracle, they denied the Miracle Worker

Others (perhaps Nic and Joseph of Arimathea)

Believed the testimony of the miracles Jesus performed

Not a hard denial of Jesus, but a very soft confession

Luke 12:51...I am not come to give peace on earth, but rather division

Note: Division to destroy and kill is of Satan

Division to heal and multiply is of Jesus

v17 unto the blind man again:

Given their remarks about Jesus in v16, the Pharisees are trying to

- “lead the witness”
- get him to weigh in on their internal debate

Without any expression of joy in the man’s blessing of sight/light...

- free from the social condemnation felt by this man, a result of the doctrines of man as to why he was blind (his sin)
- seeing his parents for the first time in his life
- seeing the Temple for the first time in his life

the Pharisees want to know if this man thinks Jesus is a sinner or not

His response: a progressive revelation from “a man named Jesus”

Jesus is a prophet

The man wisely refuses to get sucked into their squabble

Note: more than a prophet, as he will come to learn and believe!

Is 35:5a...Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened

Is 35:4...God will come and save you (therefore v5-6 is work of God)

v18-23 the Jews did not believe concerning him...called the parents:

Well, this investigation is not unfolding like the Pharisees want it to

They already have made their judgment of Jesus, now they want “the facts” to support their pre-judgment

So, they reject the testimony of

- the man born blind who was healed by Jesus
- his neighbors and all the others who knew him
- God (Is 35:5-6)

It is more palatable to the skeptical, unbelieving Pharisees that this is all a rouse than to believe 2 or 3 witnesses about the work and identity of Jesus

So they call the man’s parents to the witness stand

Is this your son?

Was he born blind?

How is it he can now see?

(There must be another reason other than Jesus of Nazareth!)

The parents state the facts they know...but refuse to state the facts told them by their son as to how he can now see...

“He is of age, ask him yourself.”

What are the parents doing?

Denying Jesus, for they know what they say they do not know

Thru fear and intimidation, the Pharisees have bullied the parents into submission
By edict: Any person who confesses/believes that Jesus of Nazareth is the
Christ/Messiah will be excommunicated

i.e. not allowed in the Temple

- sacrifices for sin
- the Feasts
- a member in good standing of the society

The parents are as fearful as their son is fearless

v24-25 again called they the man:

The parents are dismissed and the man healed by Jesus is called a 2nd time to the witness stand

Give God the praise

Joshua 6:18-19 And ye, in any wise keep *yourselves* from the accursed thing, lest ye make *yourselves* accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, *are* consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD

Joshua 7:19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide *it* not from me

i.e. Stop lying to us, come clean and tell us the truth!

We know this man is a sinner

No, they are still divided but it seems the “others” are now silent/silenced (John 7:50-52)

Again, they are not denying the miracle but denying the Miracle Worker
And the Pharisees are challenging the witness, trying to confuse and intimidate him, in order to get “the truth” they want

But the man stands firm on the simple truth and all the facts

He again refuses to be sucked into their internal dispute about Jesus being a sinner or not

Instead, he gives a most powerful testimony...an indisputable testimony in the face of hostile intimidation and manipulation

The man will not be swayed away from the truth (his personal experience),
he will not be brow-beaten

v26-27 What...how...will ye also:

The Pharisees crank up the pressure...to find/force a contradiction so they can
dismiss the man's testimony about Jesus

What did He do?!

How were your eyes opened?!

But the man increases in boldness as the Pharisees increase their bullying

I've already told you my testimony – simple truth and all the facts.
Why do you want to hear it again?

echoes of [John 8:43, 45, 46b](#)

Will you also be His disciples, believe in and follow Him?

Keyword: also...as he is now

His faith is tested/proven

His faith is growing...and boldness with it

And now he is the one doing the challenging

v28-29 reviled him...we know...we know not:

And as they have Jesus, the Pharisees now reviled/vilified this man who has told
them the truth

With mounting anger and hatred, they scornfully and mockingly called this man a
disciple of Jesus (they think it to be derogatory)

They claim Moses...but forget [John 5:45-47](#)

They claim ignorance about Jesus...but they are liars ([John 7:27-28](#))

v30-33 marvellous thing:

Now the man mocks the Pharisees

It is a wonder-filled thing that you know not where Jesus came from,
while not denying the miracle He performed;

This is a unique healing..."a 1st time testimony"

Jer 32:27 with Is 35:5a

Who are the blind here, anyway?!

v31 is just a part of the man's response to the Pharisees, it is not to be the basis of some doctrine of God

True: Ps 66:18...If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me

Yet: Rom 10:13...whosoever call upon the name of the Lord
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sin

Luke 18:9-14...parable of 2 men praying in Temple,
Pharisee and publican

v33...the man weighs in on the "Jesus is a sinner or not" debate

This statement would resonate with Nic! (John 3:2)

v34 altogether born in sins:

Unable to

- deny the miracle of the eyes of the blind opened
- reply to the simple truth and all the facts of a bold witness,

the Pharisees respond to the man's bold challenge with rage

The contents of their mind – the doctrines of man regarding why he was born blind (because of the sins of his parents and his sins)

The contents of their spirit – religious/spiritual pride (the ugliest form of pride)

The contents of their edict – excommunication from their organized religion

v35 Jesus heard...found him:

Jesus gets word of what went down with the man He healed and the Pharisees
The Good Shepherd (John 10) comes looking for the one cast out of organized religion

When He found the man, Jesus has a question for him

Not one of intimidation or manipulation or bullying, but a question of faith

"Do you believe on the Son of God?"

An obvious declaration by Jesus of His Deity
(Do you believe on Me?)

Note: What is the man's reward for fighting the good fight of faith with uncompromising truth, boldness, and courage?

To see Jesus face-to-face...the face of the God Who healed him/opened his eyes/gave him sight

v36-38 Who is He, Lord, that I might believe:

“Who is the Son of God, Lord?

“He is the One you see and the One talking with you.”

“Lord, I believe (on You)!” (i.e. I see!)

A spoken confession of faith in Jesus Christ the Messiah, the Son of God
And the man fell and worshipped Jesus as God

The progressive revelation of Jesus Christ in the life of a man healed of blindness

Initially Jesus was “a man” to the man born blind...but much more

Then He was “a prophet”...but much more

Now He is “Lord”, the Son of God

v39-41 For judgment...see not might see...see might be made blind:

To the man worshipping Him Jesus says

For judgment...to render a verdict of guilt or innocence,
to shine Light in darkness

I am come into the world...I am come to open eyes of the (born) blind

Faith in Me is the dividing line between guilt and innocence,

Light and darkness

They which see not might see...the eyes of the born spiritually blind
opened to the truth of God, by faith in Me

They which see might be made blind...the eyes of the self-righteous
spiritually blind who think they see/know God made blind by
their unbelief in Me

Some of the Pharisees with the man born blind that they so severely interrogated
were close by and overheard what Jesus said

They ask Him: “So are we blind too?!”

If you acknowledged your spiritual blindness and believed in Me, you would see
the Light and be forgiven.

But since you claim to see/know God, rejecting the truth of your spiritual
blindness, your sin (unbelief) remains.

Application

1. Know

Man

- can only know the Truth about God by faith
- knows not because believes not

2. Blindness

When one cannot see or when one chooses to not see

There are none so blind as those who will not see

Blindness is of the heart, not the eyes

Eph 4:17-18 ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart

2 Cor 4:3-4 if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them

2 Cor 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight

Jesus is the Light (John 8:12) but man must choose sight (faith)

There is no room for Jesus in legalistic, organized religion...

He is not welcome...pushed aside in favor of the doctrines of men

3. Unbeliever:

Hear the simple truth

Face the facts

Acknowledge your blindness, ask to be healed so you might see the Light

Receive Jesus Christ by faith to be forgiven and made whole

4. Believer:

Stand firm on your testimony

It will be challenged

It cannot be denied

Do not forget Matt 10:32-33

Your faith will be tested/proven...it will grow under pressure/persecution
(as will your boldness) and be rewarded

1 John 3:2-3 seeing Jesus Christ our Lord face-to-face