



## DEVOTIONAL FOR JOHN 9-10; LUKE 10

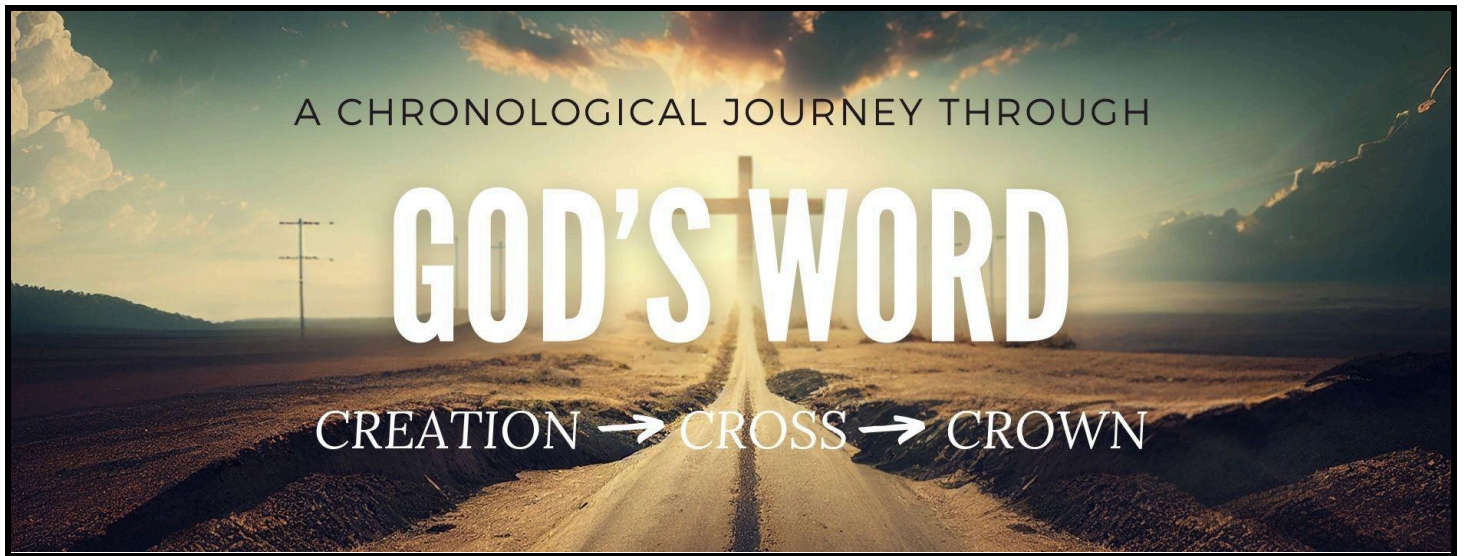
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John chapter 9 begins with the healing of a blind man. One of his disciples asked, "who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" My initial thought and answer to this question was "Yes!" Of course, Jesus' answer was better than my thought. "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." Jesus viewed this as an opportunity to do a work of God and to also love on his neighbor, which here was a man that had been blind since birth. The questions that follow about Jesus are still being debated today. "Where is he" (John 9:12)? "What do you say about Him since He has opened your eyes" (John 9:17)? "What did he do to you? How did He open your eyes" (John 9:26)? Not only did they question who Jesus was, they also questioned if the man that was healed was the same man that used to sit and beg. As I read and meditate on this passage, I quickly realize that it is me that was blind. I am one that Jesus healed.

The blind man, in John 9, did not know all of the answers, however was certain, "If this man were not from God, he could do nothing" (John 9:33). He did not know how or why, however he did have faith that Jesus was definitely from God. He knew that he once was blind but now he could see. Today, I know the same; I was once blind but now I can see. I know that apart from him, I can do nothing (John 15:5). In John 9, the Pharisees continued to question Jesus' motives, intentions, as well as whether they, themselves, could see.

At our house, we have many different types of animals, including cows, a donkey, dogs, cats and a horse. When we call out to them, they all will come when they hear our voice. We can call individual cows by name (yes, we name our cows), and they will come when they hear our voice. There is a lot that we can learn from animals. How often do we abide in Him by just simply listening to His voice and following His commands? He calls us by name and we follow because we know his voice. Our animals simply follow our commands because they know, without a doubt, that we will fully care and provide for them. John 10:14 says, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me". Our animals know that we will fully care and provide for them so they will follow our voice. When they do, there are blessings that follow, usually in the form of food or shelter. Similarly, when we follow Jesus, then blessings also come our way. He says if we follow him then we will have "eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

Jesus then says, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30), leaving no question as to who he is. We are instructed to be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1) and Jesus is our perfect example.



In Luke 10, Jesus gives the Parable of the Good Samaritan. After trying to test Jesus, the lawyer asks, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus' answer is one that I am sure the lawyer did not expect. It was not the priest or the Levite. It was the Samaritan, one that Jews would have had no dealings with. It was the Samaritan that saw a need and took action. The Samaritan did not see nationality, race, or religion. The Samaritan did not care about financial or political status. The Samaritan saw the need and had compassion. Jesus said, "You go, and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). Earlier in Luke, we are told to "Be merciful, even as your father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). It was as according to his great mercy, after all, that we have hope (1 Peter 1:3).

**Questions:**

1. Have you decided to follow Jesus?
2. What are some of the blessings that you see in your life that come as a result of following Jesus?
3. Do you know a neighbor with needs that you can tend to?