

The Gospel of John

Lesson #83
The Journey
Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John

• John 9:4 “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 mud 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

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The man in John 9 was probably told lots of times he was a hopeless cause because he was not just blind, but he was born blind. To say to anyone who is still breathing there is no hope for them is a lie and an insult to God. This is like saying the one who is omnipotent is only all-powerful some of the time. That is foolish talk and should be rejected. Whether it's healing or salvation there is always hope as long as the person is still breathing. And, if we were to check with Lazarus, even not breathing may not be too late! In fact, Lazarus is the proof that one way God heals is by promotion to Heaven for Lazarus was raised as a healthy man.

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The Gospel of John

- Please do not place limits on God he does not place on himself.
- 1st Corinthians 15:25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
- Jesus reigns over pain and poverty, cancer and contagions, and terror and tyranny – he is King of kings and no one, no thing, and no other power can or will diminish his absolute sway over all!

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- This is the insidiousness of assumptions, false doctrine, and bad teaching – we should keep quiet on things of importance unless we know what we are talking about.
- The man who was blind here in John 9 may have felt like a hopeless case, and it may have been that he would not be healed, but that is not for us to say.
- It is cruel to think that we always know what God will do – keep asking, keep praying and keep trusting God to give us that which he knows is best.

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- John 9:8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10 So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

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- The blind man’s neighbors started to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.”
- They are so stunned it seems they are afraid to admit what their lying eyes are telling them – that this blind man they’ve passed by for years now sees!
- Even in the wake of Jesus’ thousands of miracles it still shakes them when they see the power of God in their own neighborhood; on their own street. ⁷

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- They had heard of Jesus’ miracles, maybe even saw some, but when it happens on their doorstep it somehow has to be explained away.
- “Isn’t that the same man?” – it is as though they are quizzing one another to be sure they saw what they saw.
- Because if it’s the guy we’ve been walking by for years, well then that would mean God works actually and locally – and what are we to do with that? ⁸

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- As for the now “seeing man” himself, he is steadfast in his claim that he was the “blind guy” – but that is who he was, not who he is.
- Jesus had healed him and that is a stubborn fact that his neighbors were going to have to face as a part of the mountain of evidence Jesus was Christ.
- Like many of our day who have heard of the 2nd coming, this man’s neighbors had heard Messiah would come – but could he come now? ⁹

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- They want to know more about the man Jesus who was able to do a miracle no one else had ever done when they ask, “Then how were your eyes opened?”
- All he knows are the mechanics used by Jesus, so that is what he offers, just the facts.
- Jesus salved my eyes with mud, told me to go wash in the Pool of Siloam, and after I washed, I was able to see.

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- Make a note of this phrase - “The man called Jesus” in verse #11.
- That phrase is key to a deeper truth about Jesus – it begins the same sequence John used in chapter four when he wrote about “the woman at the well”.
- In chapter four first Jesus is “a Jew”, then he is a prophet, and finally the woman is fully convinced Jesus is Christ.

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- We will see the same sequence in this chapter – first Jesus is a man (verse #11), then he is a prophet (verse #17), and finally he is God (verse #38).
- So why is that significant – because he is the only person in history who, when scrutinized, only looks better and better. (scrutinized like the Passover lamb)
- Everyone else we meet eventually shows their imperfections – nasty habits, foul thoughts, bad attitudes, etc We all have some “warts”.

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- They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”
- With this question his neighbors seem to be on the doorstep of faith – no longer can they ignore the works Jesus was doing.
- Now, one of their own had been healed, the proof is before them, and now they have a choice to make – is Jesus of Nazareth the Promised One of God or not?

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Decision time comes to all of us sooner, later, or sooner and later, meaning some are faced with the reality of Jesus as the Son of God multiple times in their lives. For the healed man's neighbors, they are being faced with the power of God and the question before them is, “will you believe Jesus of Nazareth is Messiah?”. They would have at least heard of his teachings, and by now it would be hard not to know about his miracles. Add to that the very local evidence of the man blind from birth now seeing and they are at a decision point. Will they believe the evidence before them, or will they reject what is so plain? The evidence today is no less plain – the question is who will believe and be saved? No one need be lost, and anyone can believe, but who will?

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I want to be careful here that I do not mechanize what is not mechanical at all – we do not weigh all the evidence and then make a decision for Christ based on logic and reason. When one is saved it could easily be said that we do not know why we believed on Jesus, we just know we did and having believed, well then, we can go through the evidence for Jesus being Messiah and see clearly why believing is logical and rationale. But I would tell you the evidence for your decision only makes rationale sense because you are no longer dead in your sin, but alive in Christ. After believing, we should understand we only saw Jesus as our Savior by his Holy Spirit opening our hearts.

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Questions?

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