

The Gospel of John

9:1-12

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

I am excited about this next chapter. It has one of my favorite stories.

In this next chapter we will see an example of what happens when you first become a Christian.

Maybe you are a new Christian and wonder what is going on with your friends and even your family who seem to be having a hard time accepting the new change in your life.

Well in the study here in chapter 9, we will associate our new walk with the Lord and how the world sees us.

So let's get started.

✠ **John 9:1-2** *Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*

In last week's study, we read that Jesus has left the temple, and as He did, Jesus passed by a blind man who was that way from birth. He may have been at the temple asking for alms or help since he couldn't work or provide for himself due to his blindness.

As he is asking for money the disciples look at him and ask Jesus, "**Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?**"

People tend to blame their parents for the sins they commit. Sometimes this is true, but the truth is we are all responsible for the way we live and the sins we commit. When we die we will not stand before God and say, "*Well my parents taught me to be this way.*" or "*I followed after my parent's example.*"

No, we are all responsible for our own life we live.

But the disciples were basing their opinion on what they knew in the Old Testament.

† **Ex 20:4-5** *You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.*

† **Ex 34:7 (NLT)** *I show this unfailing love to many thousands by forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. Even so I do not leave sin unpunished, but I punish the children for the sins of their parents to the third and fourth generations.*

They also figured that this man was blind due to either his parents or his own sin.

Well, we know if that he was born blind that it wasn't because of his own sin, but they may have not known that he was born blind, that is why they included this as an option. So was it his parent's fault. Jesus answers that question.

✠ **John 9:3-5** *Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

"What a cruel thing," you may be thinking "that God would create someone blind for His own glory."

Why God does what He does, and how He does it we should not question.

✠ **Romans 9:20** *But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"*

"Well that's just a cop out trying to justify what God does."

No, it's not a cop out. We don't know what sort a life this man would have lived if he were born with his sight. He may have never experienced the love of Jesus, nor have even met Jesus if he did have his sight. He could have died in his sins, but through this blindness, he was allowed to be touched by Jesus, and not just his physical sight but his spiritual sight also, which we will see as we read through the story.

So the question comes up, can sin cause sickness or other health problems. Can it affect or children? The answer is yes and no.

No, because I don't believe children are punished with infirmities because of their parent's sin. But the sins of the parents can cause health issues with the children and themselves.

If you drink or smoke or take drugs while you are pregnant, we all know this can cause birth defects. Now this is sin and it's not because the parent sinned that God is punishing the child, but rather because of the result of the sin of the parents that the child is born with a birth defect. It's the parent's fault, not God's.

I also know of a woman years ago that always made fun of children who were mentally ill. Eventually she had a child and this child was mentally ill.

Was this a punishment from God? I think it was more to open her eyes to the way she lived, and how she treated or thought of others. You can be sure she never made fun of these types of children again, but rather had a newfound love and compassion for them.

So does sin affect our children or does God punish our children for our sins just as we read in Exodus?

Let's read what God says in His word.

† **Deut 24:16** *Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.*

I believe that God is telling us in Exodus how our sins affect our families.

If you drink and/or take drugs and teach your children the same thing, they also will drink and/or take drugs. Even if you don't think you are teaching them this, by doing so you are telling them it's OK to do without even verbally telling them to.

If you are into witchcraft and the occult, you are teaching your children to do the same also. Even the Harry Potter books and movies you may have allowed your children to read or see, will cause them to take part or dabble into witchcraft and even desire to be like such a person.

We could go on and on, but the truth is, whatever life style you live, you are teaching your children and grandchildren to live the same way. Even if you tell them not to be like you, or do the things you do, your actions will speak louder than words.

✚ *Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."*

So Jesus is telling His disciples that God will be glorified through this man's blindness because the glory of God will be revealed in this blindness. After all, who else could heal a blind man other than God! No physician, or magician, or sorcerer or false god could. Only the living and true God can.

✚ *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

Throughout the book of John, Jesus refers to himself as the light of the world, because darkness represents sin and Jesus came to deliver the world out of darkness and sin. We also know that the work of Jesus is not yet done, because Jesus is still working through us, the church. But we also know just by looking at the world and how things have changed over the years, that the darkness is overtaking it and refuses to accept the light.

I believe that Jesus is referring to the tribulation period here when the light of Jesus Christ through the church will be taken away. The world will be in total darkness on the day of the rapture, because there will be no believers left here on the earth to shine the light of Jesus. Yes, people will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ during the tribulation, but until they do, there will be no light shining. It will be like a bunch of lamps with no light bulbs in them. Maybe something to look at, but of no use until they can serve their purpose, which is to shine the light.

So these first verses here would represent us before becoming Christians. We were in darkness trying to grab onto the things of this world to make it through each day. But like this blind man, we always came up empty and anything we did receive was gone in a moment and we needed more.

Then Jesus came along and looked at us, seeing the condition we were in. In His compassion Jesus touched our lives just as He did with this blind man.

✠ **John 9:6-7** *When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.*

Some believe that there was healing power in the clay, other think it was in the water. But the real answer is in the one who created the clay and the water, and that is God Himself!

Now you may read this and think that this is just down right gross or sick to spit on the ground and then take the mud and put it on someone's face.

Well, remember back in Genesis when God created man?

✠ **Gen 2:7** *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

And we also remember John 1:3 speaking of Jesus.

✠ **John 1:3** *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

Jesus created all thing, and Jesus created man according to John 1:3. When man was created, he was created from the dust of the earth and God breathed on him and man came to life.

Have you ever breathed on your glasses to clean them? We do so not for the air, but the moister, which clings to the lens of the glasses. When God created man, He breathed on him and with the air was also the moistness of God's breath. So what is this moistness? None other then our saliva or spit. (You may never clean your glasses the same way again.)

So if you think about it, it's not really such a gross or sick thing after all. Also by spiting on the ground and making clay from the dirt and saliva, Jesus was touching this man with part of Himself.

It's funny how some husbands and wives will not share their food, eat off the same plate or take a bite off of the others fork or spoon. But they will kiss their spouse, in doing so, you are sharing a part of yourself with your spouse, and part of what helps you live, a part of what is inside you. (Now you may never kiss your spouse again. Yes you will!)

So this may not be as gross as you thought, but now maybe you see the intimacy of Jesus touching this man's life.

The pool of Siloam was also known as Shiloah, which is just southeast of Jerusalem and mentioned in:

† **Isaiah 8:6** *Inasmuch as these people refused the waters of Shiloah that flow softly, and rejoice in Rezin and in Remaliah's son.*

It's also interesting how the NLT puts this same verse.

† **Isaiah 8:6 (NLT)** *The people of Judah have rejected my gentle care and are rejoicing over what will happen to King Rezin and King Pekah.*

Keeping that in mind, we could think of Jesus ministering to this man with gentle care.

So once again, applying this to our lives. We have Jesus who has come to us and touched us with His life, and just as Jesus touched this man with a part of Himself (the saliva) so has Jesus touched our lives with part of Himself (His blood).

✎ **John 9:8-12** *Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."*

The man went and washed the clay from his eyes, just as Jesus instructed him to do. The scriptures don't tell us, but could you imagine this man who never saw before, as soon as the mud was washed away and he open his eyes, that he could for the very first time see. Do you think he was quite about it? I don't think so. He was probably dancing around rejoicing in what God had done in his life, by allowing this man to see.

Others who were around or saw him dancing around as he tried to return and find Jesus, saw him and wondered. *"Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him."*

They just weren't sure. It sure looked like him, but how could this man born blind now see. Did he have a twin brother or someone who looked like him?

Sure it looked like him but he looked different. No longer fumbling around in the darkness trying to find his way, but now walking up straight and not having to feel his way around or even seek for others to guide him. *He said, "I am he."*

Yes, there was a change in this man's life, and it was more than his physical eyes being opened, and the change that happened in him everyone could see.

They finally figured that this was the same man so they ask him, *"How were your eyes opened?"*

Now the formerly blind man could have tried to explain the bible to them and how God had created man from dust and used the same means to heal him. But he didn't, he just told them what had happened.

✠ *He answered and said, 'A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight.'*

We tend to think that we can't witness because we don't know the bible well enough. But to be a witness is to tell what happened in your life. Not Paul's, or Abraham's or Moses' life, but how did Jesus touch your life.

That's what this man did, and in response to this they asked him, "*Where is He?*" *He said, "I do not know."*

"I never saw Him, I don't know what He looks like, all I know is He touched me and I see."

We have never seen Jesus, but we see the effects of Jesus touching our lives, as we are changing everyday, being more and more like Jesus.

In our new walk with the Lord, He does a change in us, and others see this change. They wonder, "*What has gotten into him or her; How come they look and act different?*"

Believe me, others do see the change that Jesus has done in your life and wonder what is going on. They may not always ask you, but rest assured, they are watching you.

I want to continue on, but time permitting we will have to continue next week with this story. It's far from over, as next week we read of this man brought before the religious leaders, and boy do they grill him. But rest assured he stands strong in what Jesus did in his life, not in his own strength and wisdom like we try to do.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may the change Jesus has done in your life be evident to all!