Lesson #40
And the Blind Shall See
John 9:1-12
Presented Live on September 10, 2017

I. Introduction and review
   A. The last time we met, we concluded our study of John 8, in which Jesus declared Himself to be the Light of the world
   B. If you took a science class in college, they had a very time tested way of teaching the concepts
      1. This concept was used to some degree in high school
      2. The professor would first explain and define the principle in question, in a lecture where students would take notes
      3. And then those students would participate in a class meeting called a lab, during which the principle taught by the professor would be demonstrated by some kind of experiment or presentation
   C. Chapter 8 you should understand to be the lecture
   D. And the beginning of Chapter 9 is the lab, where the concept of Jesus being the light of the world will be demonstrated

II. The man born blind  [John 9:1-12]
   A. We don’t know when this event happened  [9:1]
      1. It could have been immediately after Jesus left the Temple escaping the Jews desire to stone Him
         a. Or it could been several days later on the next Sabbath
         b. Or some time after that event
         c. But we do know that it was sometime between the Feast of Sukkot (John 8) and the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)
(John 10:22) when the events of this chapter occurred.

2. We also can know that Jesus was in Jerusalem when He meet this blind man
   a. We can know that because Jesus sent this blind man to the pool of Siloam to wash his eyes, which is located in Jerusalem

3. It also appears that this meeting between Jesus and the blind man was haphazard or unplanned
   a. “As He passed by . . . .”
   b. But we will soon learn that is not the case
   c. John makes it sound that way to drive home a point
   d. Jesus had a divine appointment with man that was set up long before this blind man was ever conceived
   e. How did Jesus know that this man was born blind?

B. The confusion of the disciples [9:2]
   1. They asked Jesus why this man was born blind
      a. They saw a difference between one born blind
      b. And one who is blinded somehow during his lifetime
   2. They see only two possibilities, either:
      a. It was a result of the blind man’s sin
      b. Or a result of his parents’ sin
      c. This mentality or way of thinking was a classic Jewish mindset
      d. But they were wrong, as demonstrated here by Jesus, that suffering is not always a result of peoples’ sin
         (1) Consider the story of Job and what he went through
         (2) Or Paul, who on three separate occasions request that the Lord remove what Paul referred to as a “thorn in his side”, a thorn of affliction and God said “no”
   3. How does Jesus respond to this difficult conundrum?
   4. Some might say that Jesus is known to “think outside the box”
   5. But that’s not the case with Jesus
   6. He doesn’t “think outside the box” because for Him there is no box

C. Jesus’ response [9:3-5]
   1. He first informs His disciples that neither of their alternative conclusions is correct
   2. This man was born blind for a divine purpose
      a. That purpose is revealed by Jesus to be the opportunity to display God’s wonderful power and grace in this man’s life
b. And that by doing that:
   (1) It will lead to this man’s salvation
   (2) It also demonstrates that God at times allows His children to go through hardship of suffering
   (3) This event will have a positive effect on others
      (a) Matthew 12:23  All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?"
      (b) Matthew 15:30-31  And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them. So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.
      (c) Matthew 21:14-15  And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant
   (4) And finally, it reveals to us Jesus’ character, compassion, power and mission

3. There is a question that some may ask: “Is it really fair that this man had to live so much of his life blind just so God could use him?”
   a. What if that change from blind to seeing lead him to salvation
   b. Our life here on earth is really just a wisp of smoke compared to eternity
   c. James 4:14  Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

4. Consider the next thing that Jesus says: “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”
   a. Notice that there is a change in the way that He is talking in
using the plural pronoun “we”

(1) **John 8:50** "But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges.

(2) **John 8:38** "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

(3) **John 8:18** "I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me."

(4) **John 7:33** Therefore Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me.

b. Here, Jesus includes the disciples, because there is change coming, a dispensational change

   (1) No longer will the Gospel of the Kingdom be preached
   
   (2) The Jewish people will reject their Messiah for the last time in John 12
   
   (3) And shortly thereafter Jesus will commence to lay the foundation for the Church in an upper room in Jerusalem

5. Jesus now uses a figure of speech, in which daytime represents life and night, a time of slumber, that is death

   a. For Jesus the remainder of the day is the time that Jesus has left on the earth
   
   b. Once He leaves, the things He was to accomplish have to be complete
   
   c. Obviously Jesus is speaking spiritually, and reminds His disciples that He is the spiritual Light of the world
   
   d. His disciples also have work to accomplish before they leave this earth, and their responsibilities are now being stressed by Jesus
   
   e. In the same way, we are included in that pronoun
   
   f. Do you ever think about accomplishing what God has planned for you before you leave this world?

D. The act of healing [9:6-7]

1. Jesus makes a clay or mud from the dirt on the ground and His saliva

2. He then uses that to anoint the eyes of the blind man

   a. επίχρισιν epichri'sin (ep-ee-khree'-isin)

   b. **Meaning:** 1) to spread on, anoint anything upon anything

3. Jesus then sends the man to the pool of Siloam, instructing him to
wash the clay from his eyes

4. The man obeys and his blindness is terminated, leaving him fully sighted

5. Could Jesus have just spoken and the blind man would have received sight?
   a. Of course He could have, remember He once said, “Let there be light” and the entire universe was eliminated
   b. Why did Jesus anoint this man’s eyes with mud in order to restore his sight?
   c. Consider first the pool that Jesus sent him to
      (1) Siloam in Hebrew means “sent”
      (2) Why does John tell us that?
      (3) First, because many of his readers did not speak Hebrew and they were not Jews
      (4) So by relating this information to the reader, it indicates that the intended audience was Gentile
      (5) Secondly, since the pool was named “sent,” it tells us something about God’s gift of healing
      (6) Man was required to respond to our Lord in order to receive the gift of healing
      (7) Just like we must respond to the Lord to receive the gift of salvation
         (a) Believe that what He tells us is true
         (b) And act upon that truth by receiving Him

E. The Neighbors response [9:8-12]
   1. Because of his blindness, the only way that this man could support himself was begging
   2. Consider his neighbors’ response
      a. Some were mired in uncertainty: “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?”
      b. Some believed what they saw
      c. But others had to come up with an explanation of why what was true was not true: “No, but he is like him.”
      d. Why would they do that? So they would have to accept the truth!
   3. But notice how he who was blind responds
      a. No one can really claim that he is not who he says that he is
      b. So they now have to admit that he was miraculously given his sight
      c. And now he can testify to the healing power of Jesus the
Messiah

4. Why does he not know where Jesus is?
   a. Jesus was not there when the man returned

III. There is great importance in what has happened in this simple narrative
   A. The treatment of this man by his neighbors is disheartening
      1. He had just been miraculously healed
         a. Where is the excitement?
         b. Where is the shared joy that leads to celebration?
      2. Some of his neighbors doubted what was as clear as the light in his eyes
         a. Its pretty easy to determine if one can see
         b. They chose the moronity of doubt, over the requirements created by the acceptance of reality – that is that Jesus was sent from and empowered by God
         c. So what did they do?
            (1) They took a situation that screamed for a neighborhood celebration of light
            (2) And turned it into an inquisition
            (3) **John 9:13** They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind.
            (4) And that’s when it all started

B. Consider for a moment a man born blind
   1. All he knows is darkness
   2. He can standout on a hill and feel the warmth of the sun on his face, but he could never come to comprehend the glorious beauty of a sunset
   3. He can smell the intoxicating aromas of a garden, but the idea of red, yellow, purple, or green are meaningless to him. How could you even explain color to a man born blind
   4. He could walk of the sand of the beach and feel the coolness of the ocean waters that surround that island beach, but never know the crystal blue sea that suspends a boat as if in mid air
   5. How could he ever understand the change of the green lush of summer into the multicolored hues of autumn
   6. But there was a day when we were blind like that – spiritually blind
   7. That’s the lesson Jesus is trying to teach
      a. What a perfect metaphor to illustrate the plight of those living in the darkness of sin
      b. Before rebirth, a person is as spiritually blind as this man
was

c. Consider II Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

C. There are some who say that Jesus appears to have abandoned this man
1. Consider John 9:11-12 He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.” 12 They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

2. Have you ever felt like Jesus had abandoned you?
3. But He made us a promise: Matthew 28:20b . . . And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (time).
4. Jesus had a purpose in what He did, that is leaving the area
   a. Do you think that Jesus would just abandoned this man?
   b. Consider John 9:35-38 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." 38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.
   c. What effect does that passage have on you?
   d. If you experientially know what it feels like to be used to lead someone to the Lord, this kind of passage has a strong effect on you
   e. If it doesn’t, you either don’t know what that feels like, or you have forgotten

On the Back Page:

In these days of Hurricane’s, Floods, and Earthquakes
Horatio Spafford’s poem seems to fit.
It Is Well, With My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, ’tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.