

**II. MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST'S POWER
IN PUBLIC MINISTRY
JOHN 9**

A. THE HEALING OF THE MAN BORN BLIND (9:1-4)

1. Notice the circumstances which precluded this miracle (9:1-5).
 - a. As Jesus passed by He and His disciples saw a man who was _____ from his birth (1). Notice it was a common sight to see blind beggars but it was a wonderful opportunity for everyone when Jesus passed by.
 - b. Seeing the blind man, the disciples wanted to know whose _____ had caused this (2). The disciples no doubt shared a traditional Jewish belief that suffering was the result of some specific sin.
 - c. The Lord Jesus answered that this man's blindness was neither the result of his or his parent's sin. His condition was that the _____ of God should be manifested in him (3). This doesn't mean God purposed this man's blindness just for this occasion but that he being blind would provide an opportunity for God's works to be demonstrated.
 - d. Jesus then gave a statement which identified what He was about to do was the work of God and what the Father had sent Him to do (4,5).
2. Notice the way Jesus healed this man and how he testified to his neighbors (9:6-12).
 - a. Jesus made clay, anointed his eyes and told him to wash in the pool or _____ (6,7).
 - b. When others wondered if it was he that had been blind he said, "I am he" (8,9).
 - c. When others wanted to know how this miracle was wrought, he told them what _____ had done for him (10,12). Notice there ought to be a noticeable difference in our lives after the Lord does a work of grace in our lives and when questioned about it, we ought to be able to point people to Jesus.
3. Notice how this man gave testimony to the Pharisees and how they reacted (13-34).
 - a. When the man's neighbors had brought him to the Pharisees they questioned him because it was done on the _____ day and then they concluded that the one having done this was not of God (13-16). Here we see how legalism blinds people to the wonderful grace of God. We are not blessed because we keep some set of laws. Notice what was done created a division among the people and presented a personal choice concerning Jesus.

- b. Then the Pharisees asked the man who was formerly blind how he regarded Jesus (17). He said He was a _____.
 - c. The Pharisees then called the man's _____ and questioned them. Notice while they identified the man as their son and that he had been born blind, they would not identify themselves with Jesus out of fear of being excommunicated, so they "passed the buck" as it were (18-23). This same problem came about later (Jn. 12:42).
 - d. When the man who was formerly blind was questioned again and threatened with being excommunicated, he told what he knew and confessed that Jesus must be from God. Upon his confession they condemned him and cast him out or excommunicated him from the Jews' religion (24-34).
4. Notice how Jesus identified Himself to this man and how he became a believer (9:35-38).
- a. We notice after this man was excommunicated Jesus found him and asked him if he believed in the Son of God (35).
 - b. The man wanted to know so he could believe and when Jesus identified Himself to him he believed and _____ Him (36-38). This is what should follow our coming to know the Lord.
5. Notice how Jesus answered the pharisees who overheard His statement regarding spiritual blindness (9:39-41).

When the Pharisees asked if they themselves were blind, Jesus answered them with a paradox.

If they were blind, they would be better off because they would have an excuse and not know what was going on, but they did know (or could see) and therefore they were guilty.

QUESTIONS WHICH APPLY TO OUR LIVES

1. What may we rightly conclude about sicknesses and sufferings from verse 9:2?
2. Who are the lights in this world today? (Jn. 9:5; Matt. 5:14)
3. What are some ways we can illuminate this sin-darkened world?
4. What lesson do we learn from verse 7?
5. How did the Pharisees view Jesus because He had done this miracle on the Sabbath? (9:16)

6. Name some characteristics of the blind man which picture the condition of lost people (2,8).
7. Can you chart the progression of the blind man coming to exercise faith in Jesus?
8. What did the blind man's parents display in verses 18-23 and why did they answer in that fashion? How does this apply to people in our day?
9. Name some of the character qualities of the Lord Jesus intimated in this chapter (4,5,6,35,37).
10. What was the blind man's testimony according to versus 9 and 25?
11. How did this man demonstrate his faith in Jesus? (9:38)
12. What was Jesus' argument against the Pharisees' question in verses 40 and 41?
13. How does verse 31 apply to people today?
14. What was the results of the blind man's testimony after he was given sight?
15. What are two things mentioned in this account which we should focus on if we were asked to defend our faith? (9:11)

EXPOSITORY NOTES

9:2 The question which the disciples asked Jesus was based on the Jewish belief that all suffering was punishment for sin. But since this man was born blind, he himself could not have sinned before birth. It should be noticed that all physical problems are the result of Adam's transgressions and the curse which consequently came upon the whole human race (Rom. 5:12) but to assume that all suffering comes as a result of some particular sin someone has committed is unscriptural. Note this was the false assumption of Job's friends and it certainly didn't apply to the apostle Paul (II Cor. 12:7).

9:6.7 We note how Jesus miraculously opened the eyes of the blind man. But the greatest miracle in this chapter was not opening this man's eyes, it was the opening of his heart to the Saviour. A man could be given physical sight and it would be wonderful, but if he died unsaved it would be the worst tragedy.

Notice the opening of this man's heart to the Saviour co-incides with John's purpose for recording the miracles in his gospel account (John 20:31).

We can see then a wonderful progression which leads this man to faith in Christ. When questioned by his neighbors how he had been given sight he firstly said "a man called Jesus" had made clay (9:11). When questioned by the Pharisees of what he had to say about Jesus he said, "He is a prophet" (9:17). When questioned a second time by the Pharisees he declared that Jesus was from God

(9:33). Finally when Jesus asked him if he believed on the Son of God, he wanted to know who He was so he could believe (9:25,36). And when Jesus identified Himself as the Son of God the man given sight believed on Jesus and worshipped Him (9:37,38).

9:35-37 Here Jesus confirms once again His deity as God's Son. Notice the devil tries to deny the deity of Christ and to discredit and dishonor Him by using people to say things which are not Scriptural. I've even heard a certain preacher say that Jesus no where said He was the Son of God. But John 9:37 refutes this fallacious statement.