THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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**DATE: 9/26/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 9:1-7 …**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing our study in John’s Gospel

We are looking at how John portrays Jesus in different ways in each chapter

In Chapter 1 we saw Him painted as the Word

In Chapter 2 we saw Him painted as the Son of Man

In Chapter 3 we saw Him painted as the Divine Teacher

In Chapter 4 as the Great Soul Winner

In Chapter 5 as the Great Physician

In Chapter 6 as the Bread of Life

In Chapter 7 as the Fountain of Living Water

In Chapter 8 as the Sympathetic Saviour

This morning, in Chapter 9, we will be looking at Him as -

**“THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”**

In chapter **8:12** Jesus describes Himself as the Light of the World

The miracle which we are looking at this morning …

Is really a continuation of that discourse

The blind man could not see, because he was physically blind

The enemies of Jesus could not see for a totally different reason, they were spiritually blind

But Jesus is about to change all that

Before the blind man could see, he must have his eyes opened

Light must be received

There must be a Receiver as well as a Sender

People have argued the question about Noise for years

They’d say - *If a tree falls in the forest and nobody is there to hear it, is there really noise?*

The obvious answer to that, is that, there is (noise)

But there is no one there to hear it

There must be a Receiver

The lack of sight does not mean that light is not there

Natural Light reveals the condition of the eyes

Super Natural Light reveals the condition of the soul

The Pharisees thought they could see, but they were blind

Story: There is a story of a mining explosion in West Virginia. The explosion plunged the miners into total darkness. When the rescue team managed to get a light to them, one of the young men finally said, "Well, why don't they turn on the light?" They all looked at him in amazement, and then they realized that the explosion had blinded him. In the darkness, he did not know that he was blind.

The light revealed what he was

This is what Jesus means down in **v. 39** when He said …

***“For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind”***

The Light reveals someone’s true condition

Those who are blind, but do not realize it, can know that they are truly blind

Let’s notice 3 Great Truths from this passage that reveal that …

**Jesus is “The Light of the World”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “MISERY OF THIS MAN”**

I can’t even begin to image what living in Blindness is like

Not being able to see all the beauty of God’s Creation

Not be able to enjoy color, or to see people smile

To never see a sunset, the face of a child, the face of a loved one would be a terrible thing

We are not told how this man handled his hardship

But I can be certain that it wasn’t an easy life

There was no Lion Clubs or National Federations for the Blind in his day, no braille to help read

He was at the mercy of people’s charity

First, let’s look at …

**A. His ‘Blindness’ – v. 1 a**

***“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind “***

For some reason this Blind Man draws the attention of Jesus

This man, according to the Scripture was Born blind

***… “from his birth”***

Again, to my way of thinking, this would be one of the most horrible of physical handicaps

This man had lived his entire life in this state of darkness

Might I say though, that there is a blindness that is far worse than having sightless eyes?

It is the condition of spiritual darkness

It’s where you and I were before we got saved

And, that’s the place where the entire world, apart from Jesus, finds itself, right now

**II Corinthians 4:4 – *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”***

If someone has never received Jesus as Saviour,

They are in spiritual darkness this morning

However, there is always hope!

**B. His ‘Birth’ – vs. 2, 3**

The Disciples then ask an interesting Question

**v. 2 - *“And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?”***

Right away they equate his blindness with some sin

They were assuming he was (or his parents were) being punished

(If that isn’t the way the religious/natural man thinks)

**I Corinthians 2:14 – *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”***

Many would say (if that’s the case) that he would have been better off … never being born

The ***“natural”*** man, is unsaved, and cannot appreciate spiritual truth

He must first understand Christ’s atoning sacrifice for him, personally

But unfortunately, even that is ***“foolishness”*** to him

And until the Holy Spirit convicts him of its reality …

(as according to **John 16:7-11**)

… it will continue that way

Basically, the ***“natural”*** man is someone who does not have the Holy Spirit residing in him

Jesus said in **John 3:6 – *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”***

Let me just say here that Saved people can act like, and say things just like, unsaved people do

**Job** had to correct his wife in **2:9, 10 – *“Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die” “But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips”***

However, we find that Jesus knew otherwise about this Blind Man

He tells the Disciples that this man's handicap was allowed by God so that God could get glory from this man's life

**v. 3 - *“Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him”***

What a wonderful truth!

Men need to realize that God can take any life regardless of how that life has been ruined,

Save it by His grace and turn it into a beautiful thing!

After all, man's real purpose is …

… to Fellowship with, and to Glorify God

God says in **Isaiah 43:7 – *“for I have created (man) for My glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him”***

Jesus specializes in saving wasted lives

**II Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

**C. His ‘Begging’ – v. 8**

***“The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?”***

There was no Welfare, no Gov’t assistants in those days

If you didn’t work, you were destitute

And if someone didn’t take care of you, you would starve

This man was unable to work and as a result he was reduced to begging for what food and money he received

This is a pitiful state to be in

It would even appear that his parents were in the same position and unable to help him

This is a picture of absolute poverty

We are all Born Spiritually Blind, and reduced to being Beggars

Lost people are living in absolute spiritual poverty

Apart from Jesus, you and I are hopelessly bankrupt and have no way of providing the things we need on a spiritual level

Oh, men try to satisfy the Emptiness that resides in their soul

They seek to do this through drugs, alcohol, illicit sex, and so on

However, these are only forms of Begging

True spiritual peace can be found nowhere else but in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ

He endured poverty, so that you and I might be made rich in Him,

**II Corinthians 8:9 – *“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich”***

Jesus endured all this …

So that you and I might enjoy the riches of His spiritual blessings …

Salvation, Eternal life, Heaven, and the Holy Spirit

**THE “MISERY OF THIS MAN”**

Next, let’s look at …

**II. THE “MINISTRY OF THE MASTER”**

When Jesus passed by, this man's life was forever changed

-- First, we see Jesus heal him of his physical handicap

-- Then, He heals him of his Spiritual handicap

Jesus now reemphasizes what He had said earlier

**v. 5 – *“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world”***

First, Let’s look at how …

**A. The Blind Man was Exposed to the Light**

Looking at **v. 6** we see Jesus begin to performs this Miracle

***“When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay”***

The anointing of the eyes with the clay and the spittle would have been repugnant to almost anyone

**v. 7 a – *“And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”***

And when the man went to the pool and washed, he was healed of his blindness

**v. 7 b – *“He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing”***

Notice that when the people asked him what had happened, he never mentions the spittle

**v. 11 – *“He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight”***

Why not? Simply because he had not seen it take place!

He was blind!

There is a lesson here for us

When Jesus first comes to the sinner, He comes convicting that person

And it causes that person to get irritated, we don’t like that, we don’t like conviction

But Don’t despise this!

For, it is the only way anyone can ever be saved,

**John 6:44 – *“No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day”***

There is a reality check that needs to take place

These are the times when God is working in someone’s life to try and bring that person to Himself

Often, we don’t fully realize what is taking place

Even after we are saved, we often don’t realize all the little things God is doing to bring us to Himself

(Unless you really think about it)

After Jesus exposed the man to the physical light, he began to lead him through a series of events that brings him face to face with who Jesus really is

Being able to see with our physical eyes is never enough

We must also come to the place where are able to see spiritual truth

That is what Jesus does here

Notice the Progression this man went through as the Light began to dawn in his life

**1.** He sees just a Man Named Jesus – **vs. 10-12** …

When the people asked this man, who had healed him,

All he knew was that it was some fellow named Jesus

It could have been any of a thousand men, just some guy named Jesus

This is very limited knowledge, but it is the first step on the road to salvation

**2.** Then He see a Prophet – **vs. 13-17** …

When the Pharisees heard of the miracle, they called the blind man to tried and find out what happened

Some of them were upset that Jesus had done this miracle on the Sabbath day

They concluded that if He would do something considered to be work on the Sabbath, then he must not be right

They asked the Blind man what he thought, and he tells them this guy is ***“a Prophet”***

In other words, He is a man to be listened to

This man had listened to Jesus the first time and that obedience had resulted in his healing

He concludes that Jesus is worthy of Regard

**3.** Next He calls Him a Man of God – **vs. 18-33 …**

Through a series of questions by the Pharisees and some pretty good preaching on the part of this man,

He concludes that Jesus is a man of God

That is, He is a man to be Followed

He even asks the Pharisees if they would like to follow Him as well

He has come to believe that Jesus is a great man,

Someone who is working and speaking for God

He’s right, but he hasn't come far enough!

Lost people have to get past Jesus the man, and realize that He is also God!

**4.** He Declared Him the Son of God – **vs. 34-38** …

Finally, Jesus comes to the man personally and when He does, He reveals His true identity to the man

At this point, the man confesses Jesus to be the Son of God and is gloriously saved

This man had progressed from seeing Jesus as just one among many, to someone to be listened to, to someone to be followed …

To Someone to be Worshipped!

He now sees Jesus as the Only One who is worthy

He sees Him for who He truly is! The Saviour

This is the conclusion men must arrive at before they can ever be saved!

Either He is the Son of God as He said, or He is not

-- If He is not the Son of God, then you and I are headed for an unknown future

-- If He is not who the Bible proclaims Him to be, then of all men, we are most miserable

**I Corinthians 15:19 – *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”***

This fellow's progression led him from seeing Jesus as A Good Man, to seeing Him as The God Man

This is the place where we all have to get to if we ever expect to be saved

Have you reached that place yet?

**B. The Blind Man is Expelled from the Synagogue– v. 34**

***“They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out”***

There’s that false teaching again (That’s where the Disciples got it)

You see, religion has a way of indoctrinating men to a certain way of thinking and often religious people cannot see Christ because of their rules

In fact, religion apart from salvation is a dead thing!

It will take you nowhere but to Hell!

When this man refused to bow to the pressure …

… from the religious leaders, he was cast out of the synagogue

To us, this may not seem like a big thing, but to the Jews, it was devastating

However, this man had probably been black balled by these folks for a long time due to his handicap

Since he wasn't used to their form of worship, it probably wasn't such a big thing to him anyway

**C. He had a New Excitement about Life – v. 25**

***“He answered and said, Whether He be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see”***

This man was no theologian, but he knew what had happened to him personally!

He couldn't Explain what had happened, but he knew that he had met Someone who had the power to make a difference in his life

When he looked at where he had Been, and what Jesus had Done, he was more than a little excited!

This should be true in the life of every child of God

You may not shout, or do laps around the church

But if you are saved by the Grace of God, you will know it, and you will never get over it!

I believe that the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ is something to get excited about, don't you?

**THE “MISERY OF THIS MAN”**

**THE “MINISTRY OF THE MASTER”**

Lastly, let’s look at …

**III. THE “MESSAGE OF THE MIRACLE”**

So, what is the Message the Lord is trying to convey in healing the Blind Man?

Let me give you 3 quick thoughts, then we’ll go to the house

First, that …

**A. Jesus is a ‘Shining’ Light**

**Luke 8:16 - *“No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light”***

Jesus was a Shining Light for all to see

When He walked upon this earth, Jesus was in the business of delivering men from darkness

May I say that He is still doing that today?

If you have never been saved, you can come to Jesus today and He will bring you out of the darkness and the bondage in which you find yourself

He is still a Shining Light and a Saviour to all who will come to Him

**B. Jesus is a ‘Seeking’ Light**

After this man had been cast out by the Jews, Jesus went looking for Him – **v. 35**

This is why Jesus came to earth

**Luke 19:10 – *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”***

It may be the case that religion wouldn't have you, many churches wouldn't want you and most people don’t have anything to do with you

But let me tell you that Jesus Christ loves you (just like you are) and will save you by His Grace if you will only come to Him by faith and ask Him

He is still seeking souls to save today!

**C. Jesus is the ‘Saving’ Light – v. 38**

When this man bowed and received Jesus, I am sure that he forgot all about the days of his blindness and the shame of being removed from the Synagogue

When he called on the name of Jesus, He was eternally saved and received into a family from which he will never be removed!

Do we realize that what God does in saving the sinner is a forever work?

**I Peter 1:5 – *“(We) are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”***

**CONCLUSION**

This man never expected what happened that day

I am sure that he planned to live that day like every day

He did not think he would meet the Light of the World

But he did, and his whole world changed, for ever

Many are in that same shape today!

They are lost and in the depths of great spiritual darkness and they do not even realize that Jesus can set them free

If they do understand this, they feel that it is something for others and not for them

Allow me to remind you this morning that Jesus loves all men just as they are and that He will save anyone who will come to Him by simply faith

The question is, which do you prefer, darkness? Or light?

If you are tired of the dark come to Jesus and step into the Light of His glorious salvation

Will you do that today?

Maybe you are saved, but still living in spiritual darkness

It’s time to start reading your Bible and praying

It’s time to start serving God and winning souls

If the Lord as spoken to your heart, won’t you come?

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