

John 9:1-12

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. ²“Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?”

³“It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. ⁴We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. ⁵But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes. ⁷He told him, “Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “sent”). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!

⁸His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said he was, and others said, “No, he just looks like him!” But the beggar kept saying, “Yes, I am the same one!”

¹⁰They asked, “Who healed you? What happened?”

¹¹He told them, “The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.’ So I went and washed, and now I can see!”

¹²“Where is he now?” they asked.

“I don’t know,” he replied.

Background

The disciples' question in verse 2 may seem naive, but some early rabbinical writings suggested that sin could occur before birth. This stemmed from a misinterpretation of Old Testament laws in Exodus 20:5, 34:7. However, these verses refer to sin’s ripple effect on future generations, much like how divorce impacts not just the couple but others across generations.

Jesus’ healing of the blind man by mixing saliva with clay was significant because the saliva of respected rabbis was often considered special. Jesus used saliva in other healings (Mark 7:33, 8:23). His willingness to touch those with disabilities was intentional, challenging cultural avoidance and demonstrating the importance of human connection and compassion.

Teaching Points

1. Bad things do happen to good people.

When "bad things" happen to "good" people, God hasn’t lost control. He’s still sovereign. He’s not the source of evil, but sometimes allows bad things to happen for His good purposes (Romans 8:28). Bad things can also be part of God’s discipline or a way to awaken us, but He

always allows them for a good reason. In this case, the man's blindness was part of God's sovereign plan for Jesus to heal him. Even in hardship, God can accomplish good things in our lives.

2. Man is spiritually blind from birth.

There are spiritual lessons and truths associated with all the miracles of Jesus. The healing of this blind man is a spiritual picture of salvation. Just as the man was brought from physical darkness to light, believers are brought from spiritual blindness into God's marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). All humans are born spiritually blind and inherit a sinful nature from birth (Psalm 51:5). Even "innocent little babies" are sinners by nature. This spiritual blindness affects us all until Christ brings spiritual sight.

3. Salvation requires a Naaman-like faith.

In 2 Kings 5, Naaman, a Syrian general, was healed from leprosy after reluctantly obeying Elisha's command to dip seven times in the Jordan River. This showed faith through obedience. Similarly, in John 9, Jesus didn't heal the blind man instantly. He sent him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man had to trust and obey Jesus in faith, despite how it looked. This demonstrates that salvation requires a "Naaman-like" faith, which is obedient trust even when it seems odd.

Application

1. Let's "make hay while the sun shines."

The phrase "make hay while the sun shines" reminds us to use our time wisely. In verse 4-5, Jesus was essentially saying He must complete His assignment during "daytime" of His earthly ministry, because the "night" was coming when He would leave this earth and go back to Heaven. Similarly, believers have limited time on earth to shine as the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14-16). We should seize our opportunities now and faithfully do the work God has given us before it's too late.

2. Our neighbors should see a difference in us.

When the neighbors saw the healed man, they noticed a clear change and asked how his eyes were opened (v8-10). Likewise, others should see a noticeable difference in Christians, marked by joy, care, and love. Believers should be *more* than just "nice people." Our changed lives through Jesus should prompt others to ask what makes us different.