**A Man Born Blind Receives Sight – The Power Over Darkness**

*John 9*

**Introduction**

1. John 9 records the 6th miracle of the writer’s account of Jesus’ ministry. This comes on the heels of Jesus’ claim to be the light of the world who can offer life (**John 8:12**), which led to what was an even more robust explanation leading to His attempted murder (**John 8:58-59**).
2. The miraculous healing of the man born blind by Jesus, who is the Light of the world, gives one of the clearest demonstrations of the purpose of these divine manifestations.
3. In a similar sense, this miracle gives one of the clearest demonstrations of why miraculous evidence does not imply inevitable belief.
4. Jesus demonstrates His power over darkness as the Light of the world by giving physical light to this man’s eyes, but more importantly, spiritual light to the ***“eyes of [his] understanding” (cf. Ephesians 1:18)***.
5. The Miracle
6. The Misunderstanding **(vv. 1-5)**
	1. **(vv. 1-2)** – assumption that the affliction was due to personal sin, or familial sin.
	2. **(vv. 3-4)** – Jesus saw in this man an opportunity, and responsibility to carry on His Father’s will in revealing His glory, and thus, the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
	3. **(v. 5)** – He is meant to bring light to darkness – the light given to the eyes of this man would lead to more important light.
		1. **John 1:4-5, 9** – life through light (spiritual), for ***“every man”*** it is offered.
		2. **John 3:19** – this light is not overcome by darkness but is not always pursued at the cost of leaving darkness.
		3. Most recently – **John 8:12** – a claim which led to their attempt to stone Him – He would again prove the claim here.
7. The Miracle **(vv. 6-7)**
	1. Regardless of the speculations about why Jesus used saliva and clay, the point stands that such had no healing ability, and the recovery of sight was miraculous.
	2. **(v. 7)** – John specifies the meaning of ***“Siloam”*** – ***“which is translated, Sent”***
		1. Jesus is the sent One – **John 5:22-23**
		2. He has authority to heal and reveal.
		3. This miracle emphasizes who sent Jesus, therefore who He is.
8. The Testimony **(vv. 8-12)**
	1. **(vv. 8-9)** – The man testifies that it is he, and he has experienced dramatic change.
	2. **(vv. 10-12)** – The man testifies of Jesus, that He miraculously cured his blindness.
9. The Interrogation
10. The Division **(vv. 13-16)**
	1. The record reflects the reality that no matter the weight of evidence, nor the clarity with which it is presented, obstacles will always exist in the way of truth, and people will always stumble over them.
	2. Obstacle of the day – **(v. 14)** – Sabbath.
	3. ***“They brought him”*** – people who could attest to who he was – **(v. 15)** – his claim and theirs is that he was blind but sees, and he explains how. (***“He,”*** Jesus – **v. 11**).
	4. **(v. 16)** – the division comes not based on the weighing of evidence (such could not be disputed), but because of tradition.
11. The Corroboration **(vv. 17-23)**
	1. **(v. 17)** – the man’s convictions are increasing – He knows the miracle happened, and now he is given time and opportunity to consider what it may mean.
	2. **(vv. 18-23)** – the parents corroborated the fact that he was indeed born blind.
		1. **(vv. 21-22)** – however, they were unwilling to speak to the “how.”
		2. Another obstacle of truth – what would be the consequences for them? What would be the consequences for this man if he insisted that this happened, and Jesus did it?
12. The Insistence **(vv. 24-33)**
	1. **(vv. 24-25)** – they essentially seek to pressure the man by putting him under oath to admit Jesus is a sinner.
		1. They assume an agenda, instead of sincere relationship to truth. (This is their own guilt.)
	2. **(vv. 26-29)** – their persistence in asking the same question when the answer was already given agitates the man.
		1. **(v. 27)** – this sarcasm is quite telling – he frames their persistence in asking the same question as though it were in pursuit of truth.
		2. **Their pursuit is not in truth, but in spite of truth** – they cannot help but see what is right in front of them, but they desperately want it not to be so.
		3. **(vv. 28-29)** – they recoil at the thought and express their ignorance of where Jesus is from.
	3. **(vv. 30-33)** – this simple man’s logic reflects the purpose of miracles **(20:30-31),** and the logic of a Pharisee introduced earlier who is likely on the scene **(3:1-2).**
		1. Still, the man’s convictions increase – their constant prodding with efforts to break him only strengthens his convictions.
13. The Expulsion **(v. 34)**
	1. It had been reported that this would be a consequence of confessing Him – (**v. 22)**
	2. Though the man knew this, he nevertheless held to his convictions.
	3. Their outburst betrays their intentions:
		1. Was he actually born blind? **(v. 18)**
		2. He was born in sins! **(v. 34)** – making the same connection and assumption as the disciples mistakenly made before **(v. 2).**
		3. Consistency only comes when truth is honestly sought.
14. The Light of Grace
15. The Pursuit **(vv. 35-38)**
	1. A dramatic contrast is shown in the events – ***“they cast him out”*** but ***“[Jesus] had found him.”***
	2. Not only is there implied compassion and care by Jesus in the text – the expulsion from the synagogue would have been an incredibly difficult thing, both spiritually, and socially – but there is the carrying out of Divine promise (**cf. Matthew 7:7-8**).
	3. Knowing the man’s honesty, and convictions, Jesus offers him the ultimate truth of it all – (**vv. 35-37**)
	4. (**v. 38**) – how could he not believe? This was simply the missing puzzle piece in a line of insurmountable evidence.
16. The Judgment (**vv. 39-41)**
	1. **(v. 39)** – the judgment is self-inflicted – Jesus does not say “I have come to judge,” ***“For judgment I have come”*** (***“For,”*** *eis*, unto)– His presence is the catalyst for the judgment they make on themselves by their own actions.
	2. **(vv. 40-41)** – the unwillingness of the Pharisees to admit their ignorance, sin, mistaken notions, etc. causes them to remain blind, and in sin.
17. The Power Over Darkness
18. Jesus’ Light Overwhelms the Darkness of Adversity
	1. **(v. 1)** – He was blind from birth.
		1. We can imagine what difficulty this would come with in the modern world. How much more in antiquity?
	2. There is one factor that changed the outlook of this man’s life – Jesus **(v. 11).**
	3. Though miracles have served their purpose, through Jesus we are privileged with the power of prayer to petition God’s providential intervention – **James 5:13-18**
		1. **(v. 13)** – affliction should be met with prayer.
		2. **(vv. 14-15)** – Prayer activates God’s providence and leads to healing.
		3. **(vv. 16-18)** – when righteous men pray, God hears, and wonderful things can happen.
	4. Fellowship with the Light of the world sustains us in the darkest hours – **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** – it is in our weaknesses that we experience the strength of Christ the most.
		1. In our simplicity we may think it is the expulsion of the adversity that would be a marker of power.
		2. However, it is the ability of Christ to use such weakness in His strength which is the marker of power.
19. The Light of Truth Comes at a Cost Worth Paying
	1. The Jews feared even talking about Jesus – **John 7:13**
	2. The threat had been issued, and this man was before the very ones who would carry out the punishment – **John 9:13, 22, 34** – yet he did not budge.
		1. “He is cast out from the meaner fellowship, to be received into the higher, – from that which was about to vanish away, to be admitted into a kingdom not to be moved.” (Trench, R.C., Notes on the Miracles of our Lord, pg. 193)
	3. Jesus wants us to follow Him, but He is transparent about there being a cost, and wants us to count it first – **Luke 14:25-30**
		1. **(v. 26)** – division from those who may be close to us but show themselves miles away due to their rejection of truth.
		2. **(v. 27)** – duty, suffering, shame.
		3. **(vv. 28-30)** – seeing it to its end no matter the cost. (Did the blind man anticipate where this was going? His reason and wit suggest so.)
	4. The truth is invaluable, and worthy of whatever effort and cost to gain possession of it – **Matthew 13:44-46**
		1. In this, we must not confuse the truth with merely something loosely associated with Jesus.
		2. Jesus is the truth – **John 1:1, 14; 14:6; 18:37** – that kingdom in which Christ reigns, and which is so coveted, is in the realm of truth – known and lived.
	5. The rejection by those in darkness might sting for a moment due to our mortal perceptions, but it is overwhelmed by the knowledge of our fellowship with God – **1 Peter 4:14, 16**
20. The Light of Christ Only Makes the Blind See
	1. The miracle demonstrates the power of Jesus over darkness, but it also demonstrates the divine formula – **John 9:39-41**
		1. **An antidote that is refused is no less powerful. It is simply not given its proper place to work.**
		2. **A light that is covered is no less bright. It is simply smothered by those who would rather go without seeing its radiance.**
		3. Jesus’ prior explanation – **John 8:37, 43** – His word is not given place in them – their dishonesty bars out the truth, making them incapable of possessing it.
		4. **Here – they must have the humility to admit their mistaken notions, sin, and lost state in order for the light to penetrate them, driving out the darkness within them.**
	2. This requirement has not changed since times of old – **Isaiah 28:9-15** – Israel refused to simply trust in Jehovah and instead put their trust in foreign nations.
		1. Their arrogance blinded them to the power of truth, as they viewed it as too simple, for babes.
		2. **(v. 15)** – their wisdom kept God’s power from persuading their hearts, and the end was failure.
	3. Jesus’ power over darkness requires that we first humbly accept and admit that we are in darkness in order to receive the light of truth – **1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 3:18-20** – **what is thought by some in God to be foolishness is power, and eternal wisdom; what is thought by some in themselves to be wisdom is ignorance and impotence.**
	4. We cannot acknowledge and receive the greatness of His wisdom without also acknowledging our inferiority and dependence – **Isaiah 55:6-9**

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus is the light of the world and can drive out any darkness we face.
2. The benefit of His power is offered to all, but is received only by those who desire it, and are honest enough to accept that they need it.