



Lesson 14: Contention Over The Man Born Blind

February 17, 2021

John 9:1-41

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

In this chapter we read another great miracle of Jesus as He heals a man who was born blind.

- *Blind man is questioned many times about the healing and who healed him. (9:10, 15, 17, 26)*
- **Note:** *the progression of the man's thinking as he is questioned by the Pharisees.*
- *This man is now able to see what those who were sighted could not see!*
- *Never before had such been done. (cf. 9:32)*

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The miracles of the gospel of John have a specific purpose. (John 20:30-31)

- 2:1-11 – Water to wine ... Power over quality.
- 4:46-54 – Nobleman's son healed ... Power over distance.
- 5:1-9 – Afflicted man ... Power over time.
- 6:1-14 – Fed 5,000 men ... Power over quantity.
- 7:16-21 – Walked on the water ... Power over nature.
- 9:1-12 – Blind man healed ... Power over darkness.
- 11:1-46 – Raised Lazarus ... Power over death.
- The miracle of this chapter shows that Jesus is from God. cf. John 3:1-2

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WHO SINNED TO CAUSE THIS MAN'S BLINDNESS?
John 9:1-5

- 9:1-2 – *The disciples question the cause of this man's blindness, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?"*
- Many try to explain all tragedy as the consequence of some sin. "Is God punishing us for some sin?"
 - *Jesus unequivocally denies that all such tragedies are the direct result of sin and that sin caused this man's blindness.*
 - John 9:3, *"Jesus answered, Neither did this man sin, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."*

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- Certainly all sin will be punished, but not all sin is punished now through some tragedy.
- The Bible reveals several examples of direct punishment for sins.
 - *Nadab and Abihu.* Leviticus 10:1-2
 - *Uzziah.* 2 Chronicles 26:16-23
- However, not every physical affliction is a direct punishment for one's sins.
 - *Tragedy often comes to righteous and unrighteous people alike.*
 - *Note the Galileans, Siloam.* Luke 13:1-5
 - *Note Job.*

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- At times tragedy is the result of human frailty, inheritance, laws of nature being disobeyed, etc.
- Sometimes sin results in tragedy to ourselves and others. (Venereal disease, wreck caused by drunken driver, etc.)
- All this serves only to prove that mortal men cannot always determine why some specific afflictions occur.

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WHO SINNED TO CAUSE THIS MAN'S BLINDNESS?
John 9:1-5

9:3-5 – Jesus' response to the disciples' question.

- Jesus emphatically denies that sin resulted in this man's blindness.
- Rather than trying to determine if we are being punished for some specific sin, we should be reminded of the devil's role in sin and suffering.

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9:3-5 – Jesus' response to the disciples' question.

- God desires that we have peace and perfection. That is why He planned heaven. (cf. John 3:16; Revelation 21, 22)
- Sin and death as well as fleshly afflictions are the result of the devil's enticing man to sin. (cf. Genesis 3:1-6, 16; Romans 5:12)

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9:3-5 – Jesus' response to the disciples' question.

- The devil is to be blamed for human suffering, not God. However, cf. Deuteronomy 30:15. How would God set calamity before the people?
 - *Cause and effect – Inevitable consequences*
 - Amos 3:6, "shall evil befall a city, and Jehovah hath not done it?" cf. Amos 4:6ff
 - Isaiah 45:7, "I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil; I am Jehovah, that doeth all these things."
- God made man perfect and desires that we be saved. (2 Peter 3:9)

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Jesus healed the man of his blindness, "... *That the works of God should be made manifest in Him.*"

In this act, Jesus showed compassion toward those who suffer physically. (cf. Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32)

But, Jesus came to provide spiritual healing. cf. John 3:17

- He is the light of the world. He came to illuminate the way of eternal life. (cf. John 8:12; 1:5)
- His miracles proved He is the Son of God and has the power to deliver us from the bondage of sin. (cf. John 20:30-31; Acts 2:22)
 - *Jesus not only overcame the devil by healing physical afflictions (Matthew 12:22-29), but He overcame the devil's power of spiritual death when He arose from the grave. (Hebrews 2:14-15)*

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HOW WAS THE BLIND MAN MADE TO SEE? John 9:6-12
9:6-7 – The healing power was not in the clay or in the waters of the pool of Siloam.

In other cases He also used spittle to effect a cure on those in need of healing: a blind man (Mark 8:23), and a deaf and dumb man (Mark 7:33).

- Yet, when this blind man obeyed, he was healed much like Naaman was healed of his leprosy. (cf. 2 Kings 5:1-14; Luke 4:27)
- Naaman was told to "Go **and** dip in the river Jordan seven times ..."
- The blind man was told to "Go **and** wash in the pool of Siloam."

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9:6-7

Likewise, we are cleansed from sin by grace.

➤ Our cleansing from sin is not possible by human meritorious deeds (Ephesians 2:8-9,) but obedience to God' commandments is essential. (Ephesians 2:10; cf. Romans 6:17-18; Hebrews 5:8-9; Luke 6:46)

➤ More than "faith only" is necessary for salvation. (cf. James 2:24)

- *We must hear the word for faith to be produced.* Romans 10:17
- Mark 16:16, "He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned."
- Acts 2:38, "And Peter (said) unto them, **Repent ye, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- Confess. Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10
- *Baptism puts one into Christ where he can enjoy the blessings of salvation and forgiveness.* (Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 1:7; cf. 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16)

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9:8-9 – The neighbors who saw this blind man now healed, question whether this was the same man.

- This man was a "beggar" – verse 8. (commonly known)
- There was no trickery, for this was indeed the same man who was blind from birth.

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9:10-12 – The purpose of this miracle had been served.

- This was a sign that effectively convinced the neighbors that Jesus had supernatural powers. (cf. Acts 2:22; John 2:11; John 3:1-2; John 20:30-31)
- The neighbors ask, "Where is he?"