



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 10 *"COME AND SEE"*

We ended our lesson last in the midst of controversy. Jesus was challenging the Jews and they didn't like it one bit. In John 8:59 they were planning to stone Him, but Jesus passed right through them. It still wasn't His time.

Jesus just announced that He was the Light of the World. If we follow Him, we will have the light of life. If not, we will remain in spiritual darkness. In our chapter this week, we find an illustration of this very truth as Jesus heals a man that was blind from birth. Jesus actually performs two great miracles for this man. He now could see with his eyes, as well as his heart. Many say that "seeing is believing," but in this chapter, we see the opposite is true. "Believing is seeing." This chapter is both exciting and dramatic. C.H. Dodd said, "This is one of the most brilliant passages in the Gospel, rich in the tragic irony of which the evangelist is master. The one-time blind beggar stands before his betters, to be badgered into denying the one thing of which he is certain. But the defendant proper is Jesus Himself. In some sort, the man whom Christ enlightens pleads the cause of light. When he is cast out, it is Christ whom the judges have rejected. Then comes the dramatic reversal. Jesus swiftly turns the tables on His judges and pronounces sentence."

First Day

1. Read John 9:1-41. Briefly describe and summarize the issue at hand.

7. Who were the real blind men in this story?

That's it for today. I pray that as you read this chapter, you are filled with wonder as you watch the Light of the World light up a man's dark soul.

Memory Verse of the Week: "He answered and said, 'Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.'" John 9:25

Second Day

Work on your memory verse. Do you remember the day that Jesus opened your eyes?

1. Read John 9:1-11. What was the disciple's question? Why?

Many of the Jews believed that suffering was the result of one's sin. While sin can result in suffering, this is not always the case. It was also taught that a fetus "could commit sin while in the mother's womb and that its kicking indicated its sinful state. The Torah, the book of traditional Jewish laws, claimed that it was also possible for God to impose judgment of the parents' iniquity upon their children or grandchildren. We see this happen today when venereal diseases and alcoholism pass on birth defects to the next generation." (Charles Swindoll, Following Christ ... The Man of God.)

2. How did Jesus answer? Compare His answer with John 11:4.

In verse 4, the phrase, "the night is coming" means that time is short, and soon there will be no more time for Him to work. "It can also be a reference to the seeming triumph of evil during Christ's arrest and crucifixion." (John MacArthur, John Bible Studies)

3. Jesus used saliva and clay to heal this man's eyes. Read Mark 7:33 and 8:23. Who else did He heal using saliva?

4. Why do you think Jesus used clay?

5. What was the blind man told to do?

The pool of Siloam was at the south of the Temple area, and translated "sent" in Hebrew, because the waters were "sent" or conducted by an aqueduct. It's interesting that John calls Jesus the One "sent" by God 18 times. Perhaps John is looking at Jesus as a spiritual Siloam.

6. How did his neighbors and those who had known he was blind react when he came back seeing?

7. In verse 11, how did he answer their questions?

Jesus most likely used clay as a reference to the fact that humans were made from the dust in the ground. Perhaps He was also alluding to His Incarnation, because God sent His Son as a real man to this earth. "Clay is not a very powerful substance; it is very fragile. Throughout Scripture, clay is used as a symbol of human weakness." (Ray Stedman, God's Loving Word)

I would imagine that the blind man came running back, totally excited and amazed at what had happened. He had never seen the faces of his friends or family. He had never seen the beautiful mountains or the trees. What an incredible moment this must have been for him. He probably expected everyone else to be as excited as he was. I'm sure he was totally unprepared for their reaction.

8. How excited do you get for your friends when the Lord does a mighty work or answers a prayer they have been praying for a long time? Do you celebrate with them or focus on what God hasn't done for you? Do you ever become jealous of what God is doing in the lives of others?

9. Verse 4 tells us that the works of God would be glorified in the healing of this blind man. Think of a situation you're going through right now. How can God be glorified in it? Is He? How can this be an opportunity for God to reveal His power?

Maybe you have a child with a handicap or a specific limitation. Perhaps you have been told that it was because of sin in your life. Warren Wiersbe answers this well when he says, "In the final analysis, all physical problems are the result of our fall in Adam, for his disobedience brought sin and death into the world (Romans 5:12). But afterward, to blame a specific disability on a specific sin committed by specific persons is certainly beyond any man's ability or authority. Only God knows why babies are born with handicaps, and only God can turn those handicaps into something that will bring good to the people and glory to His name." John Phillips said, "There are three things we always must remember: God is too loving to be unkind, He is too wise to make any mistakes, and He is too powerful to be thwarted in His infinite purpose."

10. Do you believe that it is possible for sin to cause suffering? Explain your answer.

See you tomorrow, ladies!

Third Day

Practice your memory verse.

1. Read John 9:1-41. The neighbors brought the healed man to the Pharisees in verse 13. Why did they get so upset? (Why weren't they happy for him?)

2. Why was there a division among them? (vs 16)

3. How did the healed man answer their question in verse 17?

4. The Pharisees didn't believe it, so they called the man's parents. How did the parents respond? Why?

Jesus broke the Law in three ways. First of all, He spit and made mud on the Sabbath. The rabbis said that you could spit on a rock, but not in the dirt, because that would make mud, and making mud is work, which is forbidden. Next He made someone well on the Sabbath, which is also forbidden. You can keep the problem from getting worse, but you can't make it any better ... that would be work. (Like fixing a broken leg.) Finally, spit was not allowed to be used on the Sabbath because spit was considered a type of medicine. They obviously were so caught up in the "Law" that they were blinded to the truth. Jesus said in Mark 2:27, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." They had twisted the intent of the Sabbath regulations.

After they talk to his parents, they confront him again. In verse 24 they say, "Give God the glory!" This literally means to "speak the truth before God" or "make a frank confession." They were trying to get him to admit that Jesus was a sinner because He violated their Law by putting him under oath.

5. In verse 25, the healed man makes a great statement. What does he exclaim?

Again they ask him what and how Jesus healed him. He gets a little bolder with them, using a touch of sarcasm. This makes them really mad, almost indignant. They claim to be following the Law of Moses, but they were missing it completely.

6. Read the man's words in verses 30-33. What conclusion does he come to about who Jesus was?

7. What did the Pharisees then do?

8. How did the man show more spiritual insight than the religious leaders, who thought they were spiritual?

The man certainly wasn't a theologian. In fact, he didn't yet understand who Jesus was, but he knew He was from God. All he did was share what Jesus had done in his life. I've heard it said that "You may not be an authority on theology, but you are the world's greatest authority on what has happened to you."

9. Are you excited to tell others what Jesus has done and is doing in your life? Are you hesitant? Why is it important? How can you be more vocal in this area?

I admire the "once-was-blind-but-now-I-see" man. He stood up to the religious leaders, never denying what he knew to be true. May we always be willing to stand up for what we know to be right (James 4:17).

Fourth Day

What's your memory verse? How does it speak to your heart?

The Pharisees are very upset. When the man challenges them once more, they run out of arguments. They are so angry they decide to simply just throw him out of the synagogue. Maybe they thought that excommunicating him would shut him up.

1. Read John 9:1-41 again. When Jesus heard they cast him out of the Temple, what did He do?

2. Jesus openly reveals Himself to this man, like He did to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). How did the man respond?

3. Trace the progression of the man's faith in this chapter, beginning in verse 11. (How did his faith and knowledge of who Jesus was grow?)

4. The man could see with his heart, not only with his eyes. What was the first thing he did after he affirms his faith, in verse 38?

5. "The men of the temple cast him out, but the Lord of the Temple searched him out." What are your thoughts on this statement?

6. Have you been "cast out" or rejected by someone because of your faith in Christ? Have you been ridiculed because of your convictions? How does this story encourage you?

7. Many have said, "Seeing is believing." How does this story show us that "believing is seeing"?

Helen Keller is a familiar name to us. She grew up blind, deaf, and unable to speak, until a woman named Anne Sullivan came into her life. It has been said that the turning point in Helen's life was when the two met on March 3, 1887. Anne broke through her silent world by revealing the "mystery of language," as she describes it, to her. She said, "Gradually I got used to the silence and the darkness that surrounded me and forgot that it had ever been different, until she came -- my teacher -- who set my spirit free." (Helen Keller, The Story of My Life.) This is exactly what Jesus Christ has done for each of us that have accepted Him into our life. We were in darkness, and then Jesus revealed Himself to us, setting our spirits free!

8. Write a prayer or poem of thanksgiving to the Lord for opening your spiritual eyes and setting your spirit free!

Tomorrow we'll take a look at the Pharisees, who thought they could see, but were really blind. I remember being there myself ...

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory.

1. Read John 9 one more time. What does Jesus say after the man's spiritual eyes are opened? What does He mean?
2. Why were the Pharisees so blind?

Jesus came to seek and save those who were lost (Luke 19:10). Though judgment was not His primary purpose in coming (John 3:17), it was the inevitable result. In his book, The Gospel of John, Leon Morris said, "John evidently wants us to see that the activity of Jesus as the Light of the World inevitably results in judgment for those whose natural habitat is darkness. The other side to that coin is the restoration of sight to those who admit to their darkened condition and come out, as the blind man did, to embrace the light." Kent Hughes said, "Religious know-it-alls who believe they see, remain blind."

3. If a person feels no need, he doesn't see, but those who know they are blind are the ones who can be made to see. How is this true today?

4. Even after we're saved, we fail at times to admit our need for the Savior. We think we can do things ourselves, having it all under control. We can become "blind" to certain areas in our life where we need His help. Is there any area in which you won't admit your need? Spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that needs to be revealed. (Read Matthew 5:3)

5. Can you identify with the Pharisees in any way? Do you ever look at yourself as "better" than others, or "more religious"? How can you guard against this in your life?

6. People thinking they are more spiritual than they are is not a new thing. What do the following Scriptures say about this?
 - A. Luke 18:9-14
 - B. Romans 12:3
 - C. 1 Corinthians 10:12
 - D. Galatians 6:3

"The Kingdom of God belongs to those who realize that within themselves is nothing to commend them to God. They are happy because their emptiness is the occasion for God's fullness." (Kent Hughes, Behold the Lamb)

7. Have you emptied yourself out before the Lord today? Take a look in your "tank." What is it full of right now?

