

Sermon March 19,2023

John 9: 1-41

Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Jesus passes by and does not ignore the blind man, it is Jesus that goes over to him to work his mercy on this man. Jesus going to him to show us his work on earth to provide healing and show to us his grace in times of sickness and trouble in our own lives.

But also his words of comfort to the afflicted as he answers the disciples question about a cause for the blindness. We all want to know why certain illness happen to us or our loved ones. Jesus does not directly answer why but it was not for the sins of this man or his parents.

John 9: 1-5

***As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”***

***<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”***

We are to work the works of the one who sent me. Notice Jesus did not say I must do the works but we must do the works of the Father.

We are to continue within the body of Christ to spread his good word of his salvation to all regardless of what we experience both physically and mentally.

For Christ is the light in the darkness of our days and nights. So he goes on to heal this blind man as he shows to us his power of the miracle of healing the blindness from birth of this man.

John 9: 6-7

***“After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.”***

He was cured, he could see for the very first time in his life! A moment of celebration of healing but also of faith! Jesus sent him on his way to show others that he was indeed healed.

John writes what follows as both disappointing and surprising to what we would expect would be the reaction to this miracle to this man that they knew was blind and now could see.

The neighbors ask the question is this the man who was blind?

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was.

***“Others said, “No, he only looks like him. ”But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”<sup>10</sup> “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.***

***<sup>11</sup> He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”<sup>12</sup> “Where is this man?” they asked him. I don’t know,” he said.”***

Instead of celebrating this man new found site and showing joy for him they integrate him!

Don’t we at times in our own lives fail to recognized true blessing from Jesus in our own lives. We all have received his grace and his mercy more than we may ever realize. Think about that.

So they drag this guy who now has received the gift of healing from Jesus his sigh to see the Pharisees and this miracle of sight was all done on the Sabbath. So, the Pharisees begin to question this man What is your opinion of this Jesus? Again instead of marveling to what happened to this man they immediately accuse Jesus of breaking the law.

John 9:13-17

***“They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath. “But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.<sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened. ”The man replied, “He is a prophet.”***

So this must have infuriated the Pharisees they could not and would accept the truth! This man must had never really been blind to start with and they are now going to lengths to try to disprove this. Beside this Jesus is a law braker for healing on the Sabbath, so they go have the parents brough out to testify that their sun was really blind.

The parents are brough into the middle of the assembly to not only question but intimidate them. Is this your son? Not is this your son who was born blind but who you say was born blind. So, how does he now see? They did not get what they wanted out of the one they should concentrating on so they try to intimidate the Parents.

The Parents terrified of being kicked out of the synagogue fail to answer but say only ask him. Not protecting their own son who fail to be overjoyed by their own sons healing!

There is so many things wrong with these people we are looking at this morning. The Lord Jesus has pre formed a act of Love, mercy and grace only to have people reject and walk away from the celebration to become judges to suit their own motives.

This brings me to where we are today in this post-modernized culture in 2023 of totally abandoning our faith in God. The true blessing that were given to each of us in so many miracles from Jesus Christ that we fail to recognize, the little miracles of providing for us means to make it in this life, the big miracles of good health, children, grandchildren and healing in times of sickness.

Jesus blesses us, protect and teach us and in return he asked for our time to come to him in worship here on Sundays.

To spend time with him daily, but so many have come to believe as did these Pharisees and people in this story to question and go out their way to try to disprove who Jesus really is the true Son of God !

As we have seen family after family leave the church. Questioning his own existence, our children being taught to only believe in themselves Atheists have gone out of their way by Stripping away from our schools, universities and even striped off the halls of our government buildings any reference of God.

In spite of all this our Lord Jesus comes back to this man who was put out for simply telling the truth and try to defend them selves and are blinded by their own unbelief just as this anti-Christian culture tries but fails! For they are blinded by their own disbelief and hatred.

John 9: 35-39

***“Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”***

Jesus directly confronts the hatred and disbelief as the pilus Pharisees said to Jesus are we also blind? The world is spiritually blinded and refuses to see they are great need of saving. It is only after we are blinded and can't find our way out of the pit that we find him.

This Lenten season let us stop and reflect on this story and see how dangerous it truly is to be separated from Jesus blinded by disbelief and our own self-centered ways.

Let the Holy Spirit lead you on the path to the cross and see who Jesus is and how he died for the sins of all not just the saved but for the lost. For as a true shepherd he will risk it all to save just one who is lost. Over and over he does that every day!

His Body and Blood were given to all even his enemies.

What a savior we have in Jesus!