

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little.

Isaiah 28:10

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #197

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

CHAPTER 9

1. Jesus heals a man born blind.
2. Jesus affirms His deity.

PART ONE-Verses 1-34

1. And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from his birth.
2. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
3. Jesus answered, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.
4. I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work.
5. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
6. When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle; and anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.
7. And said unto him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went his way, therefore, and washed and came seeing.
8. The neighbors, therefore, and they who before had seen him that he was blind, said, "Is not this he that sat and begged?"
9. Some said, "This is he;" others said, "He is like him;" but he said, "I am he."
10. Therefore said they unto him, "How were thine eyes opened?"
11. He answered and said, "A man who is called Jesus made clay and anointed mine eyes and said unto me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash,' and I went and washed, and I received sight."
12. Then said they unto him, "Where is He?" He said, "I know not."
13. They brought to the Pharisees him that formerly was blind.
14. And it was the Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.
15. Then again the Pharisees asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, "He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed and do see."

16. Therefore, said some of the Pharisees, "This Man is not of God, because He keepeth not the Sabbath day." Others said, "How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?" And there was a division among them.
17. They say unto the blind man again, "What sayest thou of Him, since He hath opened thine eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."
18. But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.
19. And they asked of them, saying, "Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? How, then doth he now see?"
20. His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind;
21. But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not. He is of age; ask him. He shall speak for himself."
22. These words spoke his parents, because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had agreed already that, if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.
23. Therefore said his parents, "He is of age; ask him."
24. Then again called they the man that was blind and said unto him, "Give God the praise; we know that this Man is a sinner."
25. He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not, I know not; one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."
26. Then said they to him again, "What did he to thee? How opened He thine eyes?"
27. He answered them, "I have told you already, and ye did not hear; why would ye hear it again? Will ye also be His disciple?"
28. They then reviled him and said, "Thou art His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.
29. We know that God spoke unto Moses; as for this fellow, we know not from where He is."
30. The man answered and said unto them, "Why here is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from where He is, and yet He hath opened mine eyes.
31. Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshiper of God and doeth His will, him He heareth.
32. Since the age began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.
33. If this man were not of God, He could do nothing."
34. They answered and said unto him, "Thou wast altogether born in sins and dost thou teach us?" And they cast him out.

PART ONE-Verses 1-34

This is the only occurrence in the Gospels of a person who was afflicted from his birth, (although two incidences of this are found in the Book of Acts, i.e., the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple in Acts 3:2 and the cripple at Lystra in Acts 14:8.) Apparently the man in this story was fairly well-known since the disciples seemed to know his personal history. The question they asked, “Who sinned? Himself or His parents?” was based on the false opinion of the Jews that we could sin pre-natally in the womb. The Jews equated sickness of any kind with sin. Jesus seems to torpedo this argument when He says that neither he nor his parents were responsible for this condition, although the Old Testament does indicate that the consequences of ancestral sin can be visited on the children. Of course, sickness is, at least to some extent, caused by the fact that we live in a fallen world. Is it also due to lack of knowledge about wrong medical practices or poor eating habits or trauma, etc.? Obviously, some sins can cause sickness, such as over-drinking and cirrhosis of the liver, or doing drugs and hepatitis, or being promiscuous and STDs. The warning here in this passage, however, is that we cannot automatically conclude that everyone who is sick is in that state because of personal sin.

Why does Jesus heal? The scriptures tell us conclusively that Jesus heals because He is moved by compassion, because He wants people to see the glory and power of God, and because miracles are a sign to unbelievers and show them what God can do. He can take away affliction, sorrow, pain, disappointment and loss. I believe that His desire is to do that every time we meet together.

Twice it is recorded in scripture where Jesus used spit to heal someone. This is one of those times. The other time is found in Mark 7:33. While we consider dirt and spit unsanitary, the people in that day believe that there were medicinal powers in someone’s spit, especially if he were a prominent person. Even today, we put a burned finger in our mouths, so it is not as weird as it seems to us. Perhaps Jesus was just using the accepted medical practices of the day to foster faith in the man.

The Pool of Siloam was one of the great engineering feats of the ancient world. Hezekiah had tunnels dug underneath the city so that the Jews would have water if Jerusalem was under siege. The Pool of Siloam was an open air basin in the city with measurements of 20 feet by 30 feet.

Jesus had broken the Sabbath Day in three ways. As silly as it may seem to us, his mixing his spit with clay was considered work. Also, to heal on the Sabbath was forbidden. A doctor could do no more than was necessary to keep someone alive on the Sabbath. He could not set a broken limb, for

example, because that person's life was not in danger. Finally, the law made it even clearer by specifically saying that no man could apply spittle to the eyes on the Sabbath.

The man who had been healed was a brave man who defied the Pharisees and reminded them that the man that healed him must be of God to do such wonderful signs and wonders. His parents were not so brave. They did not want to be cut off from the synagogue for this was like being cut off from God. In the end the man most probably was excommunicated from the Temple. As Jesus warned His own followers, many of them would be thrown out of synagogues (John 16:2). Many of the rulers believed in Jesus, but they kept their belief secret because they feared being excommunicated too.

35. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and when He had found him, He said unto him, **“Dost thou believe in the Son of God?”**

36. He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I might believe on Him?”

37. And Jesus said unto him, **“Thou hast both seen Him, and it is He that talketh with thee.”**

38. And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

39. And Jesus said, **“For judgment I am come into this world that they who see not, might see; and they who see, might be made blind.”**

40. And some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words and said unto Him, “Are we blind also?”

41. Jesus said unto them, **“If ye were blind, ye should have no sin. But now ye say, ‘We see.’ Therefore, your sin remaineth.”**

PART TWO-Verses 35-41

As a fourth century Bishop of Constantinople said, “The Jews cast him out of the Temple; the Lord of the Temple found him.” If we are true to Jesus and our witness for Christ separates us from others, Jesus will always come find us. Jesus found the formerly blind man and opened his eyes spiritually as well as naturally. The man became a believer.

Those who think they know it all and those who think they have no sin are blind. Whether we want to admit it or not, we all have blinders on and all look through a glass dimly. No one has all the truth. For those who do walk in more knowledge, there is a greater responsibility to walk in truth.