

October 15, 2023

Healing the Blind Man, John 9:1-12

By Aaron Shamp

Introduction

- John has the most magnificent opening to his gospel, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men” (John 1:1-4).
 - This sign shows us what happens when the light shines into the world.
-

Darkness

- We see incredible suffering and senseless tragedy in our world all the time and ask “Why?”
 - Many in our culture see it as maturity today to become cynical about the state of life. But the Christian does not have to be either a romantic idealist or a cynic.
- **Point:** The Light exposes the darkness.
- The disciples ask Jesus *why* in this story. His answer isn’t simple.
 - They reveal two false views of suffering:
 - The blame game... Anger at what someone else has done to you.
 - The shame game... Guilt over what you did to yourself.
 - *Suffering comes from sin in general but rarely sin in particular.*
- When we ask the question of why God allows suffering, we are assuming that God owes us a comfortable life.
 - That doesn’t make sense when you consider our sin. God made us and filled our life with joys and blessings, yet we resent him for interfering with our lives.

Light

- Jesus says that he must work while it is daytime. What does his work include?
 - “Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.” 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things and asked him, “We aren’t blind too, are we?” 41 “If you were blind,” Jesus told them, “you wouldn’t have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains” (John 9:39-41).
- **Point:** The Light confronts the darkness.

Mud and Water

- **Point:** The Light overcomes the darkness.
 - “That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5).
- Jesus saw the man who could not see.
 - The One who created man from the dust of the ground restores what was broken by sin with the dust of the ground.
- Applications:
 - First, Jesus says that he was born blind “so that...”
 - Those two little words mean that suffering is never for nothing. It is never senseless.
 - God is not pleased by our afflictions; however, neither are they out of his control or beyond his ability to use for good purposes.
 - Joseph suffered unjustly for years and yet in Genesis 50 he is able to see that God had a good purpose for it all.
 - Second, suffering is always a way for God’s work to go on in your life.
 - Jesus is talking about the work of redemption. He brings us liberty from holds us in bondage.

- Suffering tends to reveal what you have built your world upon.
- Lastly, Jesus sent the blind man to wash in the pool called “Sent.”
 - We are made to see by washing in the Sent one and he sends us.