

JOHN 9:25 The BLIND SEEING

PRELIMS. Here is a familiar story with many lessons for the Church. Jesus and His disciples happen to meet a blind man. *“As He passed by He saw a man blind from birth”*[1].

RESPONSES to TRAGEDY

The first thing is the **contrast** between Jesus **response** and the disciples' response! Disciples asked 'Who sinned so that this man is blind'![2] **Speculation** as to **why?** Jesus' perspective, 'How can I **help?**' **APP** Do **you help** or **apportion blame?**

X did **not** teach **sinless perfection** in verse [3]! The rest of X's teaching and the rest of the Bible clearly testifies that **all** people have sinned and there is no one who is perfect – or even near it!

X taught that **personal misfortune** is **not** necessarily directly connected to that individual's sinful lifestyle! There is **common curse**, as well as common **grace**! The evil effects of the Fall of mankind is **not equally** spread over the race! God is **Sovereign** and people may be unfortunate in what happens to them through no fault of their own! Solomon: *“a violent perversion of justice”* in life! So we must not make judgments on the basis of misfortune. God will of course, sort it all out in the end!

Jesus was also teaching that all evil is **under His control** and there is a good purpose behind it *“but that the works of God might be displayed in him”*[3]. Sickness and trouble are all part of life – but life under **God's control!**

If this man had not been born blind, the man, his parents, the people of his day, and ourselves would not be able to glorify God for his healing! We would have been **denied** a particular demonstration of God's grace and power. Jesus does want us to know that He and His Father in heaven, are in the **healing** and **helping** business! The '**human reclamation**' business!!

Just as He said to **Martha** at the death of her brother Lazarus,

“it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it”[11:4] That **ought** to please us. God wants us to realise that **He** is **involved** in the **details** of **everyday** life.

And **all** of life brings glory to God. No matter **how ill** or **problematical** someone or something can be, it is glorifying to God. **When** did God say *“the whole earth is full of **His** glory”*? [Isa 6:3] 3,000 years ago before Truth spread beyond the nation of Israel and before Jesus Christ came to the earth. When the world was truly steeped in gross darkness! This world and everything in it, is **His world** – and He is glorified in it all!

The BLIND MAN'S TESTIMONY

What did the blind man have to say about it all? He had quite an experience didn't he? As far as the Jews were concerned to make mud and to wash in a public pool was breaking the Sabbath! So Jesus could not possibly be a true prophet *“for He does not keep the Sabbath”*[16]. It is amazing how our **traditions prevent us** from seeing the glory of God!

The man was clear about some things: (1) His **own identity** was clear *“I am the man”*[9]. Some time later he himself confirmed *“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see”*[25] **APP** This has a **spiritual** application – as indeed X Himself applied it to the Pharisees! As it is not until we **waken up** that we know we have been asleep, so. It is not until we see spiritually do we realize we have been spiritually blind!

When God and the Holy Spirit begin to 'deal' with someone, one of the first things they become concerned about is their **identity**! Who am I? Where am I going? Where did I come from? As a Xn reflects on his **former life** he can identify himself as the one that **was** a sinner, and the one that is now a 'new man'! God's Spirit causes us to **reflect** on ourselves!

(2) Another matter is our view of Christ! *“What do you say about Him?”*[17] *“He is a prophet”*[17] That was exceedingly

brave of him! Pharisees stated whoever believed Jesus was the Christ (a prophet) would be “*put out of the synagogue*”![22]

Church authorities demanded that his parents **confirm** that he was indeed blind! The parents were “*afraid of the Jews*” and therefore said “*Ask him; he is of age*”[21] and passed the buck back to their son! He was **compelled** to testify! **APP** When God begins to reveal Himself to us, we **begin** to **have a view** re Jesus! A **decision** about who Jesus is, is very important! **You must** know who Jesus is. What do you think of Him right now?

He is getting **stronger/braver** for he **argues** logically with the Church authorities and is prepared to state that Jesus must be from God “*If this man were not from God, He could do nothing*”[33] – which resulted in Him being thrown out of the Church! 'Don't lecture us, young man, we are older than you!' Salvation - a **progressive** “*first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain*”[Mar4:28] Little by little! Growth, **maturity**.

But the man was also **unclear** about some things! “*Whether He is a sinner, I don't know*”[25] Of course it may have been **fear** and **compromise** that made him say that! Xnity is a **process**!

When speaking to Jesus afterwards, the man, on hearing about “*the Son of Man*” asks “*Who is He, sir...that I may believe in Him*”[36]! He inquires and **searches**! **APP** One sign of ‘God at work’ is **asking questions**! **APP** Apathy to truth is bad sign!

The man now has a **desire** to know Jesus. Xnity is more a **relationship** than perhaps anything else! At the Fall of mankind, it was a **relationship** that was broken! X came to **reconcile** us to God – to bring us back to the former relationship! The gospel message is presented in these terms: God “*gave us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself*”[2Cor 5:19]

Now this man had **not** yet come to truly **worship** Jesus - he had to have **further teaching**. But light was indeed beginning to

dawn. We see the truth of Jesus' saying about the growing seed parable *"the seed **sprouts and grows**; he knows **not how**"* [Mar 4:27-28] God can be working without **our** even **knowing**! To ask questions is **not** unbelief, but **ignorance**!

One thing that is essential in Xnity – **submission** to Jesus! Here it is! *"**Lord, I believe' and he worshipped Him**"* [38] For him to acknowledge Christ as Lord was **proof** of His belief in Him, something the Pharisees could never do!

Here is someone who has come to truly worship the Lord – yet a few hours ago he did not even know about Jesus being Lord! Let's learn from this: It began with a **chance meeting** in the course of a day's events! (Not really a chance meeting!)

But also this: **concern** for the **physical needs** of a poor man! This is why it is important for the church to be involved in the needs of the ill and poor! **Mission Hospitals** are an **excellent** 'method' of **contacting** people!

Who is doing the seeking? When did the '**real spiritual business**' begin? Was it not when Jesus heard they had thrown him out of the Church! And then... *"having **found** him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"* [35] Jesus **went searching** for him! Jesus is the true Shepherd that **goes after** the sheep – the **stray ones**! It is the **hireling** that doesn't bother chasing after the strays! He is not **sufficiently interested**! [**Read John 10:11-14**]

Obedience! Once again, very importantly – we might ask **what** was the determining factor in the salvation of this blind man?

What was the best thing he did? Several things! But **obedience** to his command to *"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"* [7] was **vital**. What would have happened if he did not obey? Who knows.

Well Jesus tells us all 'Go and wash in the **Fountain Open** as the hymn goes! *"Come unto Me and I will give you rest"*!