

Morning Sermon June 10, 2018

"Blind, No More!" John 9:1-7

I. Jesus saw –

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:1-2 NKJ)

I would like to reconstruct for you what happened here –

1. Jesus passed by – walking, His disciples are with Him, probably not just the twelve...
2. He saw a man who was born blind:
 - A. Meaning He noticed Him
 - B. Meaning He looked on Him, and knowing Jesus, He likely looked upon Him with compassion
 - C. Notice there is no record of Jesus saying anything with His mouth at this point, if He is speaking with His eyes –
"These lovely lamps, these windows of the soul."
G. Du Barta

What might it have been like to peer into the soul of Christ, John gives us a hint when he says –

... and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NKJ)

3. His disciples –
 - A. I believe we are seeing the disciples here at their best!
 - B. They see Jesus' eyes, Jesus' face, they know Him, they read the compassion in His eyes -
 - C. I believe that same compassion is in their tone as they ask their Lord this question –
"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

My main point here, is Jesus communicated with His eyes, and the disciples caught that communication, because they were attentive to Him, because they knew Him, loved Him, shared His concerns!

II. The disciples questioned, Jesus answered –

And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. (John 9:2-3 NKJ)

The disciples' question was a good and important one –

"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

1. The disciples' thinking is, 'blindness is a terrible thing' there must have been something terrible, sin, and a terrible sin at that caused it!
 - A. Such calamity often is caused directly by sin, blindness can be caused directly by sin, for instance a person could be driving drunk (drunkenness is sin) they crash their car and glass from the windshield destroys the driver's eyes.
 - B. Yet, the same can work another way, suppose the driver hits someone else who was driving safely, and that person ends up blind?
2. What is Jesus saying as He answers –
 - A. Afflictions, trials, illnesses which we see in this world are not always proportionate to crimes and sins. Nasty people sometimes go through life with little pain, while godly Christians may suffer.
 - B. This man and his parents seem to be in this second category, he was suffering, but it was NOT because he was a worse sinner than all the sighted people around him!
 - C. This does not mean either he or his parents were NOT SINNERS – As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; (Romans 3:10 NKJ) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23 NKJ)
 - D. God is not unrighteous in allowing this man's suffering for a time – Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? (Lamentations 3:39 NKJ) Though the blindness was not because of any particular sin, still both the man and his parents were sinners.

E. *The purpose behind this blindness was the work of God –*
Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. (John 9:3 NKJ)

- *The man would be saved!*
- *Jesus / God would be glorified!*
- *Victory over the works / effects of sin and darkness would be displayed!*

III. *Jesus' work, His Miracle and its meaning –*

1. *Light and sight -*

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.⁵ "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:4-5 NKJ)

A. *Jesus had a unique earthly ministry, a calling from God, as the Light of the World, Jesus had some thirty years in this world, three in active ministry, so like all of us, He had to redeem the time –*

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16 NKJ)

B. *Jesus is about to heal a blindman, He again calls Himself the Light of the World, there is NO SIGHT, WITHOUT LIGHT!*

2. *Jesus' might -*

⁶ When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.⁷ And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam " (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. (John 9:6-7 NKJ)

When I worked for Time Warner Cable Company I met a man who shared with me His thoughts on what Jesus was doing in this passage with the clay – He was creating NEW EYES –

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJ)

*What a wonderful thing, because EYES are marvelously designed –
An eye is something like a video camera, yet far more advanced!
Eyes are:*

- *Auto-focusing*
- *Able to Auto-adjust to light, increasing sensitivity to light in the dark up to 100,000 times.*
- *Self-cleaning*
- *Self-lubricating*
- *Self-repairing*
- *Automatically built in the womb*

No camera can repair or build itself! Eyes convert light into electrochemical signals which are sent instantly to the brain which processes these images, makes adjustment and interprets these faster than any supercomputer could.

"To simulate 10 milliseconds of the complete processing of even a single nerve cell from the retina, would require the solution of about 500 simultaneous non-linear differential equations one hundred times and would take at least several minutes of processing time on a cray super computer. Keeping in mind that there are Ten million or more such cells interacting with each other in complex ways it would take a minimum of a hundred years to simulate what takes places in our eye, every second." John K. Stevens, BYTE April 1985

Our eyes with their various parts are both windows in our skin and parts of our brain. Up to this day no human being, other than Jesus Christ, has ever made a working eye; or for all I know, healed a person born blind. Making eyes is the work of God –

The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made them both. (Proverbs 20:12 NKJ)

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7 NKJ)

As the LORD God created man out of the dust of the ground, so Jesus spits on the ground, makes clay and forms this poor man new eyes. In this Jesus shows Himself again to be – the I AM, and the LIGHT of the World!

Arnold A. Brevick