**John X John 9 Jesus heals a man born blind**

Review:

1. Jesus greater than/ Lord of the Sabbath Jn 5:1-18

2. Passover points to Jesus Jn 6:1-70

3. Booths/Tabernacles point to Jesus. Jn 7:1-9:41

4. Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) points to Jesus. Jn 10

John 7 & 8 Jesus and the Feast of Tabernacles

John 7:1-13

Jesus comes to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. Also known as the Feast of Booths. *Sukkot* (lit. tabernacle) in Hebrew.

John 7:14-24

The Tabernacle discourses include many claims of Jesus. Rem: In John Jesus is revealed through the miracles he works, through statements about himself and through fulfillment of Jewish festivals.

Jn 7:16-19 “If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

Jesus to skeptics: If you do not believe me, just try doing what I say. Tell me if it does not work.

John 7:37 If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.

Jesus is drawing their attention to the Miracle of Moses bringing water from a rock.

He does this in the context of the Water-pouring ceremony at Tabernacles

The water was a symbol of the Holy Spirit, drawing attention to the Messianic age.

John 8:12 I am the light of the world. 2nd I AM statement of Jesus.

Not I have light

Not I bring light

Not I show the light.

No. I AM the light. *Ego eimi* Jesus is claiming to be God.

Again, this has a direct reference to the Feast of Tabernacles. Specifically the Illumination of the Temple.

8:46 Sinless “Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?” I thought not, so why not believe in me?

Response v. 48 A Samaritan and Demon-possessed. (In other words, no, we cannot prove you guilty of sin)

That is a big wow! Jesus lived a sinless life. Talk about a miracle!!!

Walking on water, feeding 5000, healing the paralytic at Bethsaida, healing the man born blind… That’s cool, but Jesus lived a sinless life.

Jesus is God!!!!

We are just getting started.

John 8:49-59 I AM statement #3.

8:51 If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death. (I am greater than Abraham)

v. 52 Response: That confirms it. You are demon-possessed! (unless it is true)

v. 53 You have already claimed to be greater than Moses, are you now claiming to be greater than Abraham?

v. 56. Yes. Your “father” Abraham believed in me. (Heb 11:13, 18 Rom 4:20 Abraham did not waver in unbelief regarding the promise)

8:58 Before Abraham was born, I AM. (claims to be God)

I AM the pre-existent One, I AM the self-existent One, I AM the uncaused cause.

v. 59 Response: Picked up stones to stone him.

Q: What about you. Do you believe that Jesus is God? What will you do in response to Jesus?

**John 9:1-41 Sign #6 Healing of the man born blind. Jesus proves that he is the light of the world.**

In John 6 Jesus claims to be the bread of life and demonstrates this by making bread.

In John 9:1-41 Jesus claims to be the light of the world and he heals a man born blind.

Read John 9:1-7

A few comments before we go into the actual story:

v. 1 As Jesus went along… This is most likely the last day of Tabernacles. The same day he claimed to be the light of the world (John 8:12)

John 9:3 This was done so that the glory of God would be revealed. Remember: In John Jesus performs miracles to create faith in Him, to reveal who he is and to give glory to God (going all the way back the water to wine)

John 9:5. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Note that this miracle involves both water (from the Pool of Siloam, no less) and light, recalling the two great ceremonies at Tabernacles.

When the man washed the dirt from his eyes in the Pool of Siloam, a brilliant light entered his eyes for the first time.

For this man, Jesus truly is the light of the world.

Now, let us look at the story.

John 5:2 Notice that the Jews in general, and his disciples no less believed that all suffering is the result of sin. If you prosper it is because you are a good person and if you do not it is because you are an evil person.

Interesting thought: What sin did they think the man could have committed before he was born in order to be born blind?

Like a prosperity gospel.

Jesus rebukes this idea. It is so that God can be glorified.

Many of us only became Christians because God allowed or even caused us to suffer. We are now grateful.

For Jan and I, one of the reasons we came to Bakersfield was due to some suffering we endured.

Friend in Boulder who lost his leg, who was thankful that he did.

v. 6-7 funny: Imagine hearing Jesus spit and then feeling the mud on your eyes. That took faith!

What healed the man?

The saliva? Jesus has powerful saliva after all…

The water in the pool? It is the pool used for the water ceremony after all…

His faith?

His obedience?

The healing power of Jesus?

If he had not actually washed in the Pool of Siloam, would he have been healed?

The lesson:

In order for us to be spiritually healed three things are required:

1. Faith on our part.

2. Complete obedience.

3. The power of Jesus out Lord, Savior and Messiah.

Optional: 2 Kings 5: 1-15 Naaman and Elisha

v. 12 Q:Did Naaman believe? (sort of) Q: What is Naaman’s problem?

The rivers Abana and Pharpar are good enough if God says so, but Naaman had to prove his faith by strict obedience.

Q: What are some thing the religious world tries to pass off as good enough to be forgiven? (Intellectual belief, pray Jesus into your heart (no water there!), church attendance, etc.)

God wants exact and total obedience. But these are what greases the machine.

It is the power of God, through Jesus that produces salvation!

In both cases, if you take the water out of the process, salvation does not occur.

Some say that baptism cannot be part of salvation because we are saved by faith alone, not by works. Was this man “saved” by faith alone?

Read John 9:8-34 Jesus is the light of the world. Who is blind and who can see?

In this story blindness is a metaphor for spiritual blindness and sin, and we will see the end result of remaining spiritually blind.

In this story there are three characters:

1. Man born blind

2. Parents

3. Pharisees

John wants you to identify with one of the three. What we will learn is the process by which one can go from being blind to seeing—from being enslaved to sin (John 8:31) to being freed from your sin.

When one is sick/blind there are a few steps in healing:

1. Recognize you are blind/a sinner.

2. Go to the right doctor.

3. Take the medicine.

v. 8-12 I am the guy!

John 9:11 How were you healed? He says: Some guy named Jesus healed me. (“the man” Jesus. ie just an ordinary man.)

Can the man born blind “see” yet, spiritually? No He still does not recognize who Jesus is. But he is getting there….

v. 13-17

All the Pharisees can see is that Jesus is supposedly breaking the Sabbath (v.14).

The Pharisees forbade kneading dough on Sabbath, so they probably would not have approved of Jesus mixing spit and dirt to make mud.

Interesting, they know who Jesus is better than the man born blind, but they are totally blind—they cannot see Jesus at all.

Mud, washed, now I see!

v. 16 The Pharisees are of two opinions here.

v. 17 “He is a (the?) prophet.” (Deut 18:15-18) The one like Moses.

The man born blind is getting closer to “seeing” Jesus. But he is still blind. He does not yet fully see who Jesus is.

This is why we ask certain questions before we baptize someone.

John 9:18-23 Our third character in the story: his parents. Are they blind? Yes!

Because they are not willing to stand up for the truth. They are afraid of religious opposition.

“Who opened his eyes we do not know.” Liars! Ask Him! “Thanks a lot, mom and dad.”

What about you? ”they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.” Will you take a brave, principled stand for Jesus?

Who are you afraid of? Your skeptical relative? Your critical coworker? Your demanding boss? Your bank loan officer? Your partying fool friend?

We are learning a bit this week about who will take a principled stand for the truth and who will not, have we not?... Many of our political leaders were too cowardly or too politically self-seeking to stand up to the lies and to the purveyors of conspiracy theories.

The bottom line is this, at the end of the story his parents remained blind. Not that they did not know the truth, but that they would not stand up for the truth—even though it involved their son!

Will you stand up for the truth?

John 9:24-34 The Pharisees again. Why are the Pharisees blind? Because they do not see the second Moses—the one greater than Moses. v. 29 “We know that God has spoken to Moses. They cannot see the one “like Moses.” The one who is “full of grace and truth.”

Why are they blind? Because they claim that they can see (v. 41)—that they do not need Jesus.

v. 30 How can you not see? How blind can you be? He opened my eyes! (but we need to remember how truly blind people are who are in sin. Remember how blin you were…)

v. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. This is not true!

v. 32 No one has opened the eyes of a blind man. Note: there is no miracle of healing the blind in the Old Testament.

v. 33 He is from God. He is almost there!!! He can almost see!!!

Read John 9:35-41

v. 35 Do you believe?

v. 36 No, I am still blind. Whom should I believe in?

v. 37 You have seen him (pretty cool for a person recently given his sight) A double meaning here.

v. 38 He now can see. He calls Jesus Lord.

Note that the man’s faith (and the amount of light he has) grows more and more as the story goes along:

v. 11 the man named Jesus.

v. 17 the Prophet. (Deut 18:15-18)

v. 33 he is from God.

v. 38 Lord, I believe!!! (John 1:12 “To all… those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 3:16 that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.)

Where are you at in this process? Just a man. An important spiritual teacher? Lord and God!

v. 39 I did not come to judge, but those who see me physically and the miracles I do and do not see me spiritually, they are blind and their guilt remains.

The Pharisees: You are not saying we are blind, are you? After all, we are Pharisees!!!

Jesus: Yes! That is exactly what I am saying.

Those who claim they can see are blind, but those who admit they are blind, I will make them to see.

Bottom line, Jesus is calling us today to decide—to decide to “see.”

What about you? How badly do you want to “see”?