

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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John 9

Born Blind

John 9:1-2: *1. And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which 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? How did the disciples understand the source of disease and disabilities? They were taught or assumed that blindness was caused by the man's own sins or the sins of his parents (cp Luke 13:1-5). What does that way of thinking imply about God? That if you sin God may punish you in some manner. Greek beliefs appear to be the source of this understanding (Doctrine of Transmigration - the soul of a sinner in a former life being put into a blind body for punishment).*

The reply: **John 9:3-5:** *Jesus answered, Neither has 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. Did God make this man blind for the lesson Jesus is about to give? Or, did God know the man would be born blind and used the occasion to teach a spiritual lesson? It is the latter. This verse, 5. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world, applied to Jesus' day, and spiritually to our day. First, he has to be the spiritual light in a person's heart; secondly the Father sent the Son to open the eyes of the blind (Luke 4:18).*

What did Jesus imply by the statement: *4. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work?* **Luke 23:44-46:** *44. And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. 46. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he [breathed out his last].* I was taught that Jesus died on the cross to appease God because of our sins, to pay the penalty for breaking God's commandments and that all our sins were laid on him, none of which is true. Those teachings imply that the Son's sacrifice was for God and not for me. Jesus died because of man's darkness, and the purpose of the cross is to prove that God always loved, and never condemned us (John 17:23; 3:16-17). Over all, every truth culminates in the cross. If the Father/Son relationship is not correctly understood, neither can the purpose of cross be fully discerned.

John 9:6-7: *6. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he 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.* Jesus could have just spoke and healed the man. Why mix spit with clay and not just put spit directly on the eyes? Jesus, who is the light of the world, acted out a metaphor by mixing his spit with clay: spit: words of Jesus; clay: man's or an earthly way of thinking. It is the spirit that draws us to serve God. Initially, what we are taught is a little truth mixed with the earthly understanding of men. Jesus indicated this when he told Nicodemus, a teacher of Israel: *If I told you earthly things and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you heavenly things* (John 3:12)?

John 9:8-16: *8. The neighbors therefore, and they which 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 your eyes opened? 11. He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made*

clay, and anointed my 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 afore time was blind. 14. And it was the sabbath (day) when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. 15. Then again the Pharisees also 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 keeps not the sabbath (day). Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. There are several things to note:

1. Neighbors and others were aware of the man's blindness.
2. The man gave his testimony to all who asked.
3. The Pharisees would not accept Jesus as being from God because he kept not their understanding of the law. This principle still exists among religions today. When anyone, who has been spiritually blind gives their testimony of the light they have seen, will be received by others with mixed emotions. Many will refuse to even consider the revelation, and others will immediately reject the light because it disagrees with their own opinions and with what they were taught.

John 9:17-23: 17. They say unto the blind man again, What say you of him, that he has 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 them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then does 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 sees, we know not; or who has opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. 22. These words spake 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.

The healed man perceived that Jesus was a prophet, a view the Pharisees would not accept because they believed that a sinner could not be healed. The same idea exists among Christians today. Many believe that a person cannot overcome sin in this world, but will have to wait for the advent of Christ. The parents, on the other hand knew that their son had been blind from birth and could now see. But they would not profess that Jesus had opened his eyes because they did not want to be put out of the church. It is no different today. There are those who see the truth, but refuse to speak up or walk in the light of it, but rather trust that their salvation is in their church. It was strongly emphasized in the last church that I attended that if you did not stay in the church you would be lost. After I came to a better understanding of the Father and Son, which was different from my church's view, I continued to teach all the other doctrines for a time, until I studied out each one for myself. Many are doing the same thing today, resulting in an exodus from their churches because of the error they see there.

John 9:24-34: 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 be a sinner or no, 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: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? 28. Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. 29. We know that God spake to Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from where he is. 30. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from where he is, and yet he has opened my eyes. 31. Now we know that God hears not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and does his will, him he hears. 32. Since the world 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, You were altogether born in sins, and do you teach us? And they cast him out.

Pride is a terrible thing. It is the foundation of the walls around Jericho (this city is symbolic of a mind-set that is under the law), which must fall if one is to ever come to understand the spiritual law. Just as the Pharisees would not accept that God worked a miracle through Jesus, many today will not accept your personal deliverance out of spiritual blindness. And like the Pharisee they will say, *We are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses* - i.e. Mankind loves being under the law because they know that God inspired it (cf Gal 4:21). The law cannot be a schoolmaster (cf Gal 3:24-25) to bring one to Christ unless they can accept the spirituality of it. Those who do accept it will be eventually ostracized from the religious organizations of man; and neither will they buy what these groups teach, nor can they sell what the spirit of Christ has taught them (1John 2:27).

John 9:35-38: 35. *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said to him, Do you believe [in] the Son of God?* 36. *He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe [in] him?* 37. *And Jesus said unto him, You have both seen him, and it is he talking with you.* 38. *And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.* We sin because of our blindness. But when truth is applied in one's life, they are set free of sin; and most likely there will be those close around you who will know that you have changed. But will they be willing to accept the truth that enabled overcoming the sin? Do you have a testimony of overcoming sin in your life? Sin and overcoming are personal between an individual and the Lord. However, should we not be open to consider another's testimony if it is possible that our own lives might be improved?

John 9:39: 39. *And Jesus said, For judgment ^(g2917) I am come into this world, that [those not seeing might see; and those seeing might become blind].* What does Jesus mean by his statement, *For judgment I am come into this world?* He said in another place, *I judge ^(g2919) no man* (John 8:15). The verb root (*krino* ^{g2919}) of the Greek word for judgment (*krima* ^{g2919}) means *to decide*. Therefore a judgment would be a decision. Jesus did not come to judge anyone. He came to explain the law to the Jews (new covenant) and to confirm the everlasting covenant to the Gentiles, under which covenant Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived, so that we could decide who to serve - man or God.

John 9:40-41: 40. *And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?* 41. *Jesus said unto them, If you were blind, you should have no sin: but now you say, We see; therefore your sin remains.* The work the Father gave to His Son was to open the eyes of the blind (Luke 4:18). Religiosity however, deceives many into thinking they see. God is not charging blind people with their sins, and love does not take an inventory of a blind person's sin (2Corinthians 5:19; 1Corinthians 13:5). But, do not be like the blind Pharisee who says "I see" when all they have is a man's understanding of the law and the traditions passed down through the generations. This person's sin remains because they refuse the light that will set them free from their sin. **Hebrews 12:1-2:** 1. *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,* 2. *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

The question every person should be asking is, *Who is the Lord?* Just because someone else shares their opinion of truth does not make it your own. Seek to know Jesus and God will show you the way, the truth and the life as it is in Jesus. **Psalms 24:8, 10:** 8. *Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle....* 10. *Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah. Amen!*