

The Sixth Sign: Healing of the Man Born Blind

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John 9:1-12

There are 7 RECORDED SIGNS in John's GOSPEL. There are 8 if you count the resurrection.

- John 20:30, 31 – [30] *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written that so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
- The Semeion (sign) – Are physical miracles that point to a GREATER SPIRITUAL REALITY.

1st SIGN – The Turning of the Water into Wine (John 2:1-11)

- The Sign points to the lavishness of Christ's grace.
- John 1:16 – [16] *For from His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.*

2nd SIGN – The Healing of the Official's Son (John 4:46-54)

- Jesus transcends time and space.

3rd SIGN – The Healing of the Man Who was Lame for 38 Years (John 5:1-17)

- The IMMEDIACY of GRACE. Jesus is able to heal without the POOL. Jesus is able to WORK on the SABBATH.

4th SIGN – The Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-15)

- Jesus is the essence of true SPIRITUALITY.
- John 6:35 – [35] *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*

5th SIGN – Jesus Walks on Water (John 6:16-21)

- Jesus is Lord of Nature. Lord of the Cosmos.

Each of the SIGNS manifests our LORD's GLORY and how CHRIST meets our SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

This 6th SIGN points to how our LORD heals us of our SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS.

The Problem of Blindness

9:1 – [1] *As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.*

- The connection with the FEAST of BOOTHs is unclear. Perhaps it is soon after the interaction with the Pharisees.
- We know from the CONTEXT it takes place on a SABBATH.
- Jesus on his way to the TEMPLE, passes by this blind man.
- And this BLIND MAN caught his attention.
 - The TEXT says that JESUS saw this MAN.
 - And this MAN is BLIND from BIRTH. From his BEGINNING.
 - MATTHEW HENRY – "He that is blind has no enjoyment of the light, but he that is born blind has no idea of it."
- This on a SPIRITUAL LEVEL is the PLIGHT of MAN.
 - MAN is BORN SPIRITUALLY BLIND and part of the KINGDOM of DARKNESS.

- Because of this... MAN has no idea of his own SPIRITUAL CONDITION.
- Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:4 – [4] *In their case, Satan, the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.*
- 1 John 5:19 – [19]... *the whole world lies under the power of the evil one.*
- The PURPOSE of CHRIST’s MISSION is to give spiritual SIGHT and the KNOWLEDGE of GOD. To WAKE PEOPLE up from their spiritual SLUMBERS.
- Galatians 1:4 – [4] *Christ came to deliver us from this present evil age.*
- The ONLY HOPE is for CHRIST to REMOVE the SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS.
- How does Christ remove the BLINDNESS? Through giving us the New BIRTH in the POWER of the SPIRIT. John 3:3 – [3] *Truly, Truly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
- Jesus puts it like this. John 9:39-41 – [39] *Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”* [40] *Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”* [41] *Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.*
- The PROBLEM with the Pharisees is that they didn’t realize that they were spiritually blind.

The Philosophy of Glory

The disciples now POSE a PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM. You might call this THEOLOGICAL KARMA.

- Many of the JEWS of DAY taught that every misfortune was a result of an evil deed committed.
- Alfred Edersheim – “It was a common Jewish view, that the merits or demerits of the parents would appear in the children.”
- Of course we all deserve death and punishment because of our sin, and many times God does JUDGE sin. But’s it’s not always correlated.

9:2 – [2] *And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

- They pridefully assume that there is SIN involved in this man’s predicament.
- Jesus knowing the secret counsels of GOD NEVER held to THIS.
- See Luke 13:1-5.

Jesus counters their philosophy of karma with a PHILOSOPHY of GLORY. That means that God is working all things in the UNIVERSE for HIS ULTIMATE GLORY.

9:3 – [3] *Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”*

- First thing to NOTE – *Jesus believed in the absolute sovereignty of God over all things.*
- God has a GRANDER SCOPE. God works all things for HIS ULTIMATE GLORY!
- It was so that the WORKS of GOD might be displayed. The GLORY of GOD.
- The purpose of this man’s BLINDNESS is for a demonstration of the Son of God’s HEALING POWER. God’s GLORY.

The Principle of Good Works

9:4 – [4] *“We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”*

- Jesus has a RESPONSIBILITY to do the WORKS of GOD throughout his ministry.

- He was sent by the FATHER to accomplish a certain number of WORKS.
- The statement means this. Day time is for Work. Night is for Sleeping and rest.
- Jesus is saying that here is a LIMITED WINDOW – About 6 months for Jesus to do the WORKS of the FATHER, and then he will die on the cross, be resurrected and ascend into Heaven. And then NIGHT will come, when He will no longer work in the same way.

Jesus says, “We” – the Disciples must do the works of the him who sent me while it is day.

9:5 – [5] *“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

- Jesus is saying that HE EXPLICITELY is the ANSWER to the PROBLEM.
- Wheresoever Jesus in the world, He is the Light of the World.
 - John 8:12 – *“I am the Light of the World.”*
 - Jesus has always been the LIGHT.
- The WORK of the CHURCH is to lift up the LIGHT of the WORLD.
 - This is the CHRISTIAN MESSAGE.
 - It is when the CHURCH has departed from this message that it has fallen on HARD TIMES.

The Portrayal of Grace

9:6 – [6] *Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud.*

- The Man does not ask Jesus to HEAL HIM. There is no expression of FAITH.
- There is no interaction with the BLIND MAN.
- Jesus doesn’t ask him permission to HEAL HIM.
- He simply moves to HEAL.
- He Spits on the GROUND and makes mud, and anoints the mud on His eyes.
- He is the CREATOR of the EARTH. The one who fashioned the COSMOS.
- The one who created Adam from the DUST of the EARTH.
- This is a PICTURE of GOD’s GRACE. This is a GLORIOUS picture of SALVATION.
 - Christ creates function in the nerves and retinas in his eyes.
 - Simply by touching the EYES and sending that man to bathe in the pool of Siloam.
- A picture of how Christ MOVES to HEAL our SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS
- He intervenes. This is the WORK of GRACE.

9:7 – [7] *and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means SENT). So he went and washed and came back seeing.*

- The Hebrew Word “salah” means “To Send.”
- It was a pool on the Southwest side of the city. Built by Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:20).
 - It was fueled by an underground conduit, which brought water into the CITY.
- Jesus is the SENT one (sent verse 4). He often works through unspectacular means.
 - It is a TESTING of our FAITH.
 - It is a SYMBOL of the FACT that CHRIST is the HEALER.
 - He is asking him to wash in the POOL of the KINGS.
 - The POOL of CHRIST, the one who is sent.

The Perception of the Man

9:8 – [8] *The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”*

- There is confusion over the Man's identity.
- They had never heard of this BEFORE.
- No one before had ever healed a man born blind.
- Because it was only a MIRACLE to be worked by the MESSIAH.
 - Isaiah 29:18 – [18] *In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of the gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see.*
 - Isaiah 35:5 – [5] *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.*
 - Isaiah 42:7 – [7] *to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.*
- The HEALING of the BLIND is the SIGN that JESUS is indeed the Messiah.

9:9 – [9] *Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, I am the man."*

- No one is really listening to the MAN HIMSELF.
- The man is saying "Eigo Eime" – I am HE. I am the MAN.
- Already he seems to be identifying with the Lord Jesus Christ.

9:10 – [10] *So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"*

9:11 – [11] *He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight.*

- Such a SHORT statement of CONVERSION.
- Already HE has FAITH in the SON of GOD.
- He simply obeys Jesus's WORD.
- "I went, and washed, and received my sight."

9:12 – [12] *They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."*

- Simple STATEMENT.
- All HE KNOWS is what CHRIST has done for HIM.
- And that CHRIST has done the IMPOSSIBLE.