

"To See or Not to See, that is THE Question" (John 9) (3.20.20) first Drive-In Service  
John 9 (NIV84)

### The Healing

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

### The Witness

8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded.

11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

12 "Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

### He is a Prophet

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.

17 Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

### Questioning His Parents

18 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. 19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

This Man Must be from God

24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Belief and Worship

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Blindness

39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

The word of God for the people of God.

Title: To See or Not to See, that is THE Question

LET US PRAY.

INTRODUCTION:

In 1969, Joni Mitchell sang her song "Big Yellow Taxi." You might remember the refrain.

It goes like this:

"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?"

In this time, our lives have changed. (expand)

BODY:

What caused the beggar's blindness?

Is this virus, this Covid-19 from God?

→ Our Bibles speak to this possibility

→ It might be from the enemy

→ God is faithful (Romans 8:28)

→ Why: The work of God may be displayed.

Jesus restored his sight:

→ Spit and dirt

o Unexpected

o Reminds me of human creation

→ Wash in the pool of Siloam

o Means sent (Jesus is the ONE sent by the Father to save the world)

o Obedience

o Baptism in the One sent

o Healed.

The neighbors didn't know if the beggar was the same man:

→ Refusal to see him as a seeing man

→ Unable to comprehend how his healing was possible.

Where is Jesus?

→ The neighbors asked

→ The Pharisees confessed they didn't know where he came from

→ How many people are asking today, where is God?

Who is Jesus?

→ A sinner

→ Sinners could not perform this miracle; so he must be from God

→ The blind beggars progressive revelation

o The man called Jesus

o A prophet

o The one sent from God

o The Son of Man

o Lord, I believe, and he worshiped him.

They questioned his parents:

→ Power, control, fear

→ Is this the one you "say" was born blind?

The blind man called a second time before the Pharisees:

→ Give glory to God they say

→ He resists their intimidation

→ He calls them remarkable

→ They throw him out

Jesus seeks out those that are cast out:

→ Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

→ Jesus leaves the 99 and finds the one

→ Jesus has come for the sick

→ Is Jesus looking for you?

→ Who are you praying comes to faith in Jesus?

For judgment I have come into the world:

→ The blind will see

→ Those that think they know

o Depending on themselves

o They cannot see the truth

CONCLUSION:

Fear can blind us.

Tradition can blind us.

Stubbornness can blind us.

PRIDE can blind us.

Position can blind us.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (AMP)

3 But even if our gospel is [in some sense] hidden [behind a veil], it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing; 4 among them the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving to prevent them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves [merely] as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our

hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of the glory and majesty of God [clearly revealed] in the face of Christ.

Amen and amen. Let us pray.

PRAYER: Ephesians 1:16–21 (NIV84)

16 I [friends] have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.