

The Gospel of John: The Light of the World

John 9:1-41

The Light (v. 1-5)

- As He is in Jerusalem, Jesus finds a man born blind
 - His disciples assume sin on the part of either him or his parents is the cause of his condition
 - Rabbinic teaching connected individual sin and suffering
 - However, this is not always true (ex. Job)
- Jesus tells them the reason is for God's work to be revealed through him
 - He tells them that this work must be done while it is day/light
 - While He is in this world, Jesus is the Light of the World, the source of this light/power
 - Night/darkness is coming: Jesus' death
 - When He returns to His Father, His disciples/we will be the light of the world because Jesus' Spirit will work through us (Matt 5:14-16)

The Sight-Giver (v. 6-12)

- Jesus illustrates His claim to be the Light of the World by giving sight to the blind man
 - This is a sign pointing to Jesus' identity
- Jesus makes a mud-pack of dirt & His saliva and tells them man to wash in the pool of Siloam
 - Jesus often used means of healing that were thought to make a person unclean (saliva, touching lepers, & blood)
 - He spreads cleansing
 - There is some faith needed on behalf of the man, who must obey Jesus's instructions
 - Siloam (sent): Jesus is the sent

The Controversy (v. 8-34)

- When the man returns, he tells his neighbors that Jesus gave him sight
 - They bring him to the Pharisees to be examined and because this happened on a Sabbath
- The Pharisees argue that Jesus must not be from God because He 'breaks' the Sabbath
 - Though the OT Law allows helping others on the Sabbath
- There is division about who Jesus is:
 - The Pharisees think He is a sinful false teacher
 - The crowd questions how a sinful man can perform such signs
 - The sighted-man thinks He is a prophet
- His parents are called in to testify to the man's blindness, which they do
 - But they refuse to comment on Jesus because of fear of the Pharisees kicking them out of the synagogue
- The sighted-man states clearly that Jesus must be from God because only God can give sight to a man born blind (v. 25)
 - Only the sighted-man is can see Jesus for who He is
- The Pharisees stubbornly refuse to believe and throw the man out, declaring him "steeped in sin at birth"

Spiritual Blindness (v. 35-41)

- Jesus finds the man and reveals His identity

- The sighted-man believes & worships Jesus
- Jesus then declares that He has come to open the eyes of the blind, both physically & spiritually
 - And He shows that those who think that they have spiritual sight will be shown to be spiritually blind
- Some Pharisees ask if He means that they are spiritually blind
 - He responds:
 - If you admit that you're blind and need spiritual healing, then Jesus offers it
 - If you claim to have spiritual sight (and therefore don't need Jesus), then you are left in the guilt of your sin

So What?

- Jesus is the Light of the World, removing our spiritual blindness
- Do we seek Him for true sight & healing?
- If we know Jesus, are we being Light to the World by letting His Spirit work through us?

Meditation Verse: John 9:4-5

Next Week: John 10:1-21