

Signs of the Messiah: Sight for the Blind

(John 9:1-41)

The Sign (v. 1-12)

- Jesus has returned to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (7:2, 14)
 - A remembrance of the 40-year time of wandering in Sinai following the Exodus when God led His people with the pillar of fire & smoke
- Jesus comes across a man born blind
- The disciples equate his blindness with personal sin, either his parents or his own
 - Jesus assures them that this is not the case, but it is rather to reveal God's works
- Jesus calls His disciples to share in His works while He is with them acting as the Light of the World (v. 4-5)
 - And later through the Holy Spirit's presence (John 14:12; cf. Mt. 5:14-16)
- Jesus makes some mud with his saliva (see Mk 7:33; 8:23), rubs it on the man's eyes and sends him to wash in the Pool of Siloam/Shiloh
 - The water for the Feast of Tabernacles was drawn from the pool of Siloam
 - And was understood as having Messianic ties (Gen. 49:10a; cf. Isa. 8:6)
 - Siloam means 'sent', like Jesus who was sent by His Father
 - "It is not just a miracle; it is a sign, the work of the Father, mediated through the sent one, to shed light on those who live in darkness." -D. A. Carson
- In obedience, the blind man goes and washes and has his sight restored
 - Again, we do not see the miracle, just the implications
- On his return, his neighbors asked about the healing
 - And he points them to Jesus

The Inquisition (v. 13-34)

- When word spreads to the Pharisees of the man's healing, they question him about it
 - Concerned because it happened on the Sabbath
 - Again, more concerned with man-made rules than the man's sight
 - They cannot accept that someone who doesn't act how they think he should could be sent from God
- They question his parents, who are fearful of the Pharisees' influence and try to stay out of it
- When they return to questioning the man, he points out the flaw in their own logic
 - They claim Jesus is a sinner for breaking the Sabbath
 - He sees Jesus as sent from God because He can give sight
- When he points this out, they insult him and throw him out

The Sighted & the Blind (v. 35-41)

- And with that revelation, he puts his faith in Jesus
- Jesus explains that He was sent to give sight to the spiritually blind
 - And to show those who think they have spiritual sight that they are blind
 - "This chapter portrays what happens when the light shines: some are made to see, like this man born blind, while others, who think they see, turn away, blinded, as it were, by the light." -D. A. Carson
- Nearby Pharisees hear this and are offended at Jesus' inference that they are spiritual blind

- However, Jesus points out that if they claim to understand who He is and yet don't believe, they are stuck in their sin (cf. Mk. 3:29)

So What?

- Jesus is the giver of true spiritual sight
- Do we realize that we are blind without Him?
- Have we accepted His offer?

Meditation Verse: *John 9:25b*