

Sermon on Let Jesus Restore Your Situation

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Text:

John 9:1-9 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. 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."

1 Introduction

Our passage follows on the heels of the challenge by the religious leaders of Jesus' authority when he declares indirectly that he is God. Even though in his engagement with them he stated three witnesses from scripture to prove his divinity they accused him of testifying about himself which violates the scriptural requirement of independent witnesses. And so in this chapter and the next Jesus will perform miracles to prove his divinity. In our particular passage Jesus restores sight to a blind man in a way that shows that he is the creator and hence he can recreate. As the creator therefore, he can restore any situation that is broken or incomplete. So, let Jesus restore your situation, let him recreate incomplete things in your life.

2 Jesus ran across the hopeless blind man

2.1 The man's blindness reduced him to a hopeless life and future

Our passage tells us that Jesus ran into a man born blind. This man was probably cared for very well by his parents when he was a baby and preteen. When he became a teenager he was most likely sent out by his parents to fend for himself through begging. He must have

looked dirty and unkempt and reduced to the low life of a blind beggar. There was no hopeful future in his life and he must have resigned himself to living on the borderline of a destitute. His had become a daily begging for alms just to get the barest necessities of life.

Are you in a situation that makes you feel hopeless and helpless? If you are an alien without papers in the USA you may feel this way; you don't have the chance to go to school to improve your situation, you cannot work professional jobs, you work under an assumed identity and hence you take any job just to get by. You have tried all possible avenues to legitimize your stay without success and you have now resigned yourself to living in the shadows with no hopeful future. If you are feeling this way I want you to know that God is walking by, Jesus is coming along, Jesus is making his approach toward you, Jesus is making the rounds, Jesus is coming your way, Jesus is looking to touch you. Let Jesus be the light at the end of the tunnel. Let Jesus restore your situation. Let Jesus recreate the abundant life he promised you.

2.2 You must be providentially placed to get your breakthrough

Verse 1 of our passage tells us that, "As he went along, he saw a man." This blind man was providentially placed at the right location at the right time for Jesus to come across him. You must be providentially placed to receive your breakthrough. When Daniel prayed for understanding the response was sent through angels who are not omniscient. So, they were sent to a particular location where Daniel was waiting for the right time. That was Daniel's providential placement. When I was in secondary school, during one summer I was looking for a job. A family friend promised to find me a job but asked me to wait at home on a particular day so he can come and get me to the company. I stayed for awhile and then left. When he came I was not home and he left angry and never tried to find me a job. I lost my summer job opportunity because I was not in the right place at the appointed time. You have to be providentially placed to receive your blessings. I submit to you that you are providentially placed in The Apostolic Church. God has brought you here at this time for a reason. If you abandon your providential placement in The Apostolic Church your blessings will stop flowing as we have seen with some people who have left the church.

3 The disciples presumed sin was the cause of his blindness

In verse 2 of our passage, the disciples asked Jesus about the cause of the man's blindness. In asking him, they gave him a multiple choice question: (a) Was the man born blind because his parents sinned or (b) Was the man born blind because he himself sinned? They selected these two choices from their understanding of scripture and gave Jesus no other alternatives.

3.1 The disciples thought the parent's sin may have caused the blindness

The disciples' suggestion that the parents may have sinned to cause the baby to be born blind may be explained by their understanding of Exodus 20:5, which says, "You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me."

3.2 The disciples thought the fetus' sin may have caused the blindness

If the man's sin caused his blindness and since he was born blind then it means that he sinned when he was a fetus in the womb! What scriptural basis did the disciples use in suggesting that the fetus sinned? It comes from several passages. In Genesis 25:22-23, we learn of the jostling of the fetus Jacob and the fetus Esau and some ancient Rabbi's believe that in that jostling the fetus Esau sinned. Paul dispels this belief in Romans 9:11-12 when he says, "Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad-- in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls-- she was told, 'The older will serve the younger.'" But the disciples did not have the benefit of Paul's letter at the time and may have relied on Psalm 58:3, which gives the possibility of a fetus sinning when the psalmist says, "Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies."

3.3 The disciples jumped to judgment instead of care

Regardless of their justification the disciples gave Jesus no other choices for the cause of the man's blindness other than sin. Another factor that may have made them limit their choices to sin is that in John 5 when Jesus healed the cripple at the pool of Bethesda he told him the cause of his sickness was his own sin. But even in that case Jesus first healed the man. So in

presupposing sin as the cause of the man's blindness they had judged the man. Rather than approach the suffering man with compassion and seek help from Jesus to alleviate his suffering they condemned him.

I find that people are quicker to condemn than being quick in showing compassion. When someone is in a dire situation they will first explore what the person did to land him in that situation. Such was the case of Job's three friends who assumed without a shadow of doubt in their minds that Job had sinned to bring such untold suffering upon himself. Obviously, Job's suffering was also due to the purpose of God that was unknown to Job or his friends. Let us stop judging people who are suffering and let's begin to show compassion with serious intercession for such people.

4 Jesus attributed the cause of the blindness to the purpose of God

4.1 Jesus deliberately left the man's eyes incomplete when he was created

Imagine you are cooking stew for some important visitors and you intentionally leave out a secret ingredient that makes them like your stew. When they taste the incomplete stew they will have problems with it. Then looking at their faces, you take back the stew into the kitchen, put in the secret ingredient, cook it for a few minutes, and take it back to the dining room. After tasting the meal, the guests will all be astounded as to the marked improvement. And you would have achieved your purpose of showing them the value that you bring to the making of a great stew.

In a similar way, in verse 3 of our passage, Jesus told his disciples that the blind man's parents didn't sin to cause the blindness and the blind man himself didn't sin as a fetus. Instead, he, Jesus – the creator God, created the blind man for the future glory and purposes of God, so he made him incomplete; he did not give him eyesight and eyes. He was made incomplete for such a time as this in order that someday he will use the man to prove that he his God incarnate!

4.2 There are other causes for suffering in addition to sin

In answering the disciples' question Jesus introduced the fact that there are reasons for suffering other than sin. Subsequently, from the whole revelation of scripture we have come to know that people suffer for four major reasons:

1. People suffer for God's purposes such as in the case of this blind man and the case of Job;
2. People suffer because of the fallen world we live in due to Satan's affliction and curse of creation from the original Adamic sin;
3. People suffer because of their own sin such as in the case of the cripple at Bethesda pool and David's sin of adultery and murder; and
4. People suffer because of unwise choices such as in the case of King Rehoboam who chose to increase the tax burden on the Israelites and lost half of the kingdom.

5 Jesus created a new eye for the blind man

5.1 Jesus shone his light into the man's life

After declaring the blind man's situation as due to the purpose of God, Jesus then proclaimed in verse 5 of our passage that he is the light of the world with the implication that he is about to bring light into the darkness of the blind man. After years of hopelessness, living day and night in darkness, Jesus is now the light at the end of the tunnel for the blind man. Whatever situation you are in know that Jesus is the light at the end of the tunnel. Receive Jesus' light to dispel darkness from your life. Let Jesus be your light to drive away the dark situations in your life. Let Jesus restore your situation.

As the psalmist says in Psalm 27:1, "The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear?" and also in Psalm 18:28, "You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light." This is the light that shines from the glory of God. This is the light that emanates from the presence of God. This is the light that cannot be resisted by darkness. This is the light that brings deliverance. This is the light that brings relief. This is the light that brings healing. This is the light that brings restoration. This is the light that brings breakthrough.

5.2 Jesus formed eyes from the dust

In verse 6 and 7 of our passage, Jesus "made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes." Why did Jesus do that? Jesus is the creator God and he created man by forming man from the dust of the ground. This blind man, however, was not given eyes to see purposely "so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." (John 9:3) So, it was time for Jesus to complete the job of creation in this man. Thus, he repeated what he did at creation when he

formed man from the dust; he created eyes in the dust, picked them up, and pasted them onto the man's nonexistent eyes – into the hollow eye sockets.

5.3 The man obeyed Jesus and got his breakthrough

Then he told him in verse 7 to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The blind man played his part in this breakthrough. He permitted Jesus to put spit-mud on his eyes and he obeyed Jesus when asked to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. To get your breakthrough, you must willingly receive Jesus into your situation and you must be obedient to his Word.

And when the man washed in the Pool of Siloam he was able to see clearly like a young person. Yes, Jesus did this to show that he is the creator God, the God who creates out of nothing, the God who calls things that are not as though they were. So, you see, Jesus can bring things that are missing in your life into existence. Whatever situation is the result of missing things can be repaired by Jesus. Is it a financial situation that is missing a career job? Is it a marital situation that is missing peace? Is it a living situation that is missing children? Jesus is the answer. Let Jesus restore your situation. Let Jesus be the light at the end of the tunnel.

6 The man was transformed beyond recognition

When Jesus came into the blind man's life he was transformed beyond recognition. According to verse 8 and 9 of our passage his neighbors and those who knew him did not recognize him anymore! They could not believe that he was the former blind man. But this was no ordinary restoration of sight. This was the light of God shining into the life of the former blind man. His whole appearance and persona had changed because of the light of God.

This is what happens when you let Jesus into your life. If you want your life to be transformed beyond recognition, then let Jesus be your light, let Jesus be the light at the end of your tunnel, let Jesus recreate your life, let Jesus restore your situation.

When Jesus touches you, your neighbors will not recognize you.

When Jesus touches you, your friends will not recognize you.

When Jesus touches you, your schoolmates will not recognize you.

When Jesus touches you, your coworkers will not recognize you.

When Jesus touches you, your family will not recognize you.

When Jesus touches you, your church members will not recognize you.

7 Conclusion

The man's blindness reduced him to a hopeless life and future. The disciples presumed sin was the cause of his blindness and so thought the sin may have been by the parents or the fetus. In their presumption, they had jumped to judgment instead of care. But Jesus attributed the cause of the blindness to the purpose of God. Jesus, the creator-God incarnate, had deliberately left the man's eyes incomplete when he was created in order to demonstrate his divinity during his future stay on earth. Jesus created a new eye for the blind man by shining his light into the man's life; Jesus formed the eyes from the dust just as he had originally formed man from the dust. When instructed to go wash in the Pool of Siloam, the man obeyed Jesus and got his breakthrough. He was transformed beyond recognition.