



“Growing in Knowing”

1. Putting God First

John 2: 1-11 - Turning Water into Wine : God's glory and disciples believed in Him

- Your life performance is based on a true and complete surrender to God's will
- They will be a time to when the supply of the wine of your joy will fail, but those who know their God, they shall do exploit.

2. I am the Bread of Life

John 6: 35-48

- People eat bread to satisfy physical hunger and to sustain physical life. We can fulfill the spiritual need and sustain spiritual life only by a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

3. I am the Light of the World

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

John 9:1-7 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

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

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. “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 references to life, light, and darkness continue to draw on Genesis motifs (cf. Gen. 1:3–5, 14-18, 20-31

1. Situation

The cure of the blind man probably occurred shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles, while Jesus was still in Jerusalem. The episode is a unit by itself, used as an illustration of Jesus' utterance recorded in 8:12: **“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

The healing was not only a sample of Jesus' ability to restore sight to a man who was congenitally blind; but it also represented, figuratively, and for the blind man, experientially the dawning of spiritual light. Furthermore, the healing brought new light to the disciples on one of the mysteries of life that had bewildered them.

Although Jesus had healed blind persons on other occasions:

- **Mt 9:27-31** - the healing of two blind men by a touch on their eyes;
- **Mt 12:22** - Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.;
- **Mt 15:30** - A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all.
- **Mt 21:14** - The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.

But, this "**sign**" was an outstanding case because:

- (1) The man had been born blind;
- (2) The sign was related to the issue of God's will, raised by the disciples; and
- (3) It illustrates the origination and development of faith, a theme of this gospel. The encounter of Jesus and the blind man seems to have been a casual one. **Since blind beggars had little opportunity for employment, they were dependent on charity for their sustenance.**

Take Away: Not all suffering could be traced to sin! This is the work of God that must be displayed in him. This indicates that God in his mysterious and wise providence sometimes allows his children to go through hardship and suffering so that they can experience God's mercy and power in delivering them.

2. Observation

The man's recovery of his sight created a genuine sensation. The effects of the miracle are described vividly by the responses of four groups or individuals:

1. **The neighbours:** Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg? **The neighbours revealed surprise and skepticism.**
2. **The Pharisees:** They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. **The Pharisees showed disbelief and prejudice.**
3. **The parents:** We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. **The parents believed but kept quiet for fear of excommunication.**

4. **The man himself:** One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”. **The healed man showed consistent, growing faith.**

Each reaction to Jesus allowed the man to reach a clearer understanding of the one who had healed him.

3. Inspiration

Question to ask is that: “Does God allow pain in order to display his power?”

Verse 3 says: *“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”*

In a sense, yes. But throughout the Bible we see God’s purpose and intent contrasted with the work of Satan. Satan kills, steals and destroys; Jesus, in contrast, gives abundant life (John 10:10). While Satan’s aim is destruction, Jesus came to destroy the devil’s work (1 John 3:8).

Some of the bad things that happen occur simply because we live in a fallen world.

- Negative circumstances occur because the entire creation itself was affected when sin entered the world, opening the door for illness and natural disaster. *Romans 8:22 For we are conscious that all living things are weeping and sorrowing in pain together till now*
- In John 9, neither the man nor his parents had done anything to deserve the man’s blindness from birth. **Their suffering came as a consequence of living in a world plagued by sin.** Nevertheless, God intended to use their terrible experience to display God’s work in this man’s life.
- God receives glory when he miraculously intervenes with his healing power. But he also receives glory when people endure their own suffering through the power of his grace. *2 Corinthians 12: 7-9 - And because the revelations were so very great, in order that I might not be overmuch lifted up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, one sent from Satan to give me pain. And about this thing I made request to the Lord three times that it might be taken away from me. And he said to me, My grace is enough for you, for my power is made complete in what is feeble. Most gladly, then, will I take pride in my feeble body, so that the power of Christ may be on me.*
- God is able to make you live to your fully capacity with what he is killing other people. In both cases God is glorified as the giver of life in an otherwise futile and destructive world.
- See the book of Job to understand God’s will for His people and how He reveals Himself to anyone who wait upon Him

4. Conclusion

There are three applications of this passage that deserve our attention:

1. **Jesus was referring to his ministry as the light of the world** and reminding the disciples he would not always be on earth. *As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*
2. **Jesus was reminding his followers they also were the light of the world** (Matt. 5:16) and needed to submit their lives to God. *Matthew 5:16 - Even so let your light be shining before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*
3. **Jesus was illustrating his ability to use whatever was available to accomplish the impossible.** The mud drew the onlookers' attention to the man's eyes and presented a clear demonstration of the power of God. Your problem is not beyond repair - give Jesus a chance to come into your life.

All God requires from us to remove our guilt is our recognition that we are guilty because of our sins and are in need of his forgiveness. John reveals elsewhere that if we confess our sins we will be forgiven. However, if we say we have no sin, we lie in self-deception (1 John 1:9–10). Claiming we can see—that is, that we can perceive our own spiritual condition when in fact we cannot - keeps us from receiving the healing of forgiveness.

5. Recommendation

1. Follow Jesus who is the Light of the World; **in Him is the light of life.**
2. The light of Jesus brings **sight to both the spiritually and physically blind.**
3. Do the works of Jesus while **there is still opportunity.**

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."