

Finishing Well

Lesson #8 Blinded Eyes See Feb. 22, 2023

John 4:11-14 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

¹² Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinks of this water shall thirst again:

¹⁴ But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 10:10 I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The water from the Gihon Springs, a type of God the Father, was sent to the Pool of Siloam by cutting through solid rock.

I Cor. 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

God provided life-giving water to us by sending His Son Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock.

This fresh clean water that came from the Pool of Siloam entered the city through Hezekiah's tunnel. This water was called chay/chaim mayim - living water.

Jesus performed miracles:

- To meet human needs
- Used those miracles as a "launching pad" for a message conveying spiritual truth.
- His miracles were His "credentials" to prove that He was indeed the Messiah.

From Spiritual Blindness To Eyes That See

John 9:1-2 And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Note: Their premise is apparent: Sickness Is The Result Of Sin.

II Cor. 12:7 Paul was given a "thorn in the flesh" to keep him humble after a marvelous glimpse of heaven.

II Cor. 4:16-5:10 Physical afflictions can enhance our desire for heaven and focus our attention and affections on the unseen, eternal things that are most important.

Sickness and suffering can be used of God for purposes not known to us at the time, and perhaps not even in our lifetime.

Sickness and affliction may very well be purposed by God to bring glory to Himself.

John 11:4 Jesus deliberately waited for His friend Lazarus to die, rather than heal him of his sickness, for the glory of God.

John 21:18b-19 but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. ¹⁹ This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Gen. 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Key: Beware of wasting too much time with the "whys" of the past, and let us get on with the "so whats" of the present, knowing that the suffering of the saint is for a divinely ordained purpose, resulting in our good and His glory.

Consider: Does it seem strange the disciples would even think that his being "born blind" could be caused by his sin before he ever had an opportunity to sin?

- Some rabbis taught a baby in the womb could sin. Example: Jacob & Esau

Consider: It would have involved a complete rewrite of the man's brain.

- A baby's brain whose eyes are undamaged still has to learn how to interpret what is received from the eyes.
- Someone who has been blind since birth and suddenly can see, will not "see" the world as seeing people do.
- Starting to "see" after a lifetime of being blind is a completely different scenario than going blind after a lifetime of seeing.

Consider: To heal someone blind from birth requires their "death" as a blind person and their "resurrection" as a seeing person.

- The TIME it would have taken for the development of the eyes and brain to adjust was over-ridden by the Father of Creation and of Time.
- The Past became the present instantaneously.
- God is not constricted by TIME. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

John 9:32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

Key: Before this moment there had NEVER been such a miracle; healing one blind from birth.

- No sight restored in OT
 - Healing blindness was Christ's most common miracle
- No Disciples Healed Blindness
Evidence He was The Messiah

Key: This man's eyes had NEVER functioned. This was a Messianic sign.

Swindoll: "As the story unfolds, we learn that their 'chance' meeting had been scheduled since the beginning of time, and the man's 'meaningless' affliction had been given divine purpose from the foundation of creation."

Calvert: "This passage teaches us that some of God's greatest and most glorious works are done in the most desperate of human situations.

Human desperation sets the stage for the unveiling of God's awesome grace and power."

John 9:3-5 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. ⁴ I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Swindoll: "The term 'day' refers to the life of Jesus, and to the opportunity thus afforded of working miracles. His life was drawing to a close. It was about six months after this when he was put to death. The meaning is, My life is near its close. While it continues, I must employ it in doing the works which God has appointed. Night here represents death. It was drawing near, and He must therefore do what He had to do soon."

➤ Jesus understands He was sent into the world to be the light to one in darkness.

Note: He uses the word SENT which is the meaning of Siloam.

Key Point: Jesus was about to perform an outstanding witness to the coming Kingdom and fulfill prophecy.

Ps. 146:7-9 He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The LORD frees the prisoners. The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are weighed down. The LORD loves the godly.⁹ The LORD protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but He frustrates the plans of the wicked.

Luke 4:16-21 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, 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 brokenhearted, 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. And He closed the book, and He gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And He began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

When Isaiah first penned these words ~ 700 years earlier, they were meant as consolation for a future hope, for the day when the Messiah would come to save the people of Israel.

Now the Messiah is on the scene - He has shown up to deliver. He has graced this crowd with His presence. Salvation has entered the room, and yet...they don't understand.

Matt. 11:2-5 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,³ And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

⁴ Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

The following strange actions of Jesus -- spitting on the ground, making clay, anointing the eyes with the clay, and then sending the man to the pool to wash [He never does with any other person] -- are a symbolic action that is teaching something deeper than the mere opening of a man's eyes.

John 9:6 When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

Question: Why did Christ put mud [clay] on the blind man's eyes?

1. It was a picture of the incarnation. [Wiersbe]

This was an accepted treatment among the Jewish people; especially saliva from a fasted life. They believed the spittle of the firstborn son of the father was anointed in healing.

➤ The Pharisees had prohibited this practice under their traditions.

When Jesus performed this action, they saw another sign > He is The Messiah.

Jesus also used His spittle to heal the deaf mute in Mark 7:32-35.

Prov. 20:12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

Interesting: Today we understand that the blueprint of an individual's genetic makeup is contained within our cells, our blood and our saliva/ spittle.

Jesus' DNA was in the spittle which was the DNA of His Father, the Creator.

The combination of the Father's DNA within Jesus, together with the dirt of the ground, the same creative material that ADAM was made from was now also the same that Jesus combined to place on the man's eyes - - the man who was BORN BLIND.

Gen. 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Irenaeus: Believed mud and saliva was used to show Jesus Christ is the Creator.

I Cor. 15:45, 47 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul;

the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Life-giving

⁴⁷ The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.

In Genesis we are told that God formed man from the dust of the ground, from the clay of the earth. What does clay symbolize in Scripture?

Jer. 18:4-6 God is the Potter. We are the clay.

He molds us and shapes us into what he wants us to be.

II Cor. 4:7 Believers have this treasure in earthen vessels, clay pots.

Isa. 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Clay, malleable and weak, is used as a symbol of the weakness and fragility of human nature.

When Jesus smeared clay over this man's eyes: Something is hindering the man's spiritual sight -- not only his physical, but his spiritual sight. It is the clay of his humanity.

➤ The fallen human nature is a hindrance to seeing spiritual truth and reality.

Question: Why did Christ put mud [clay] on the blind man's eyes?

2. Source Of Irritation: Encouraged him to believe and obey! [Wiersbe]

When you have an irritation in your eyes, you quickly seek irrigation to cleanse it out!
You might compare this "irritation" to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit as He uses God's law to bring the lost sinner under judgment.

John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, [by interpretation, Sent.]

He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Note: Jesus had been at the Temple when He passed by this man born blind. [~1/4 mile]

Key: Physical eyes can easily be opened by Jesus' power.

When Jesus sends this man on a stumbling journey to the pool of Siloam, He is indicating there is a difficult time ahead of him. The process of healing his spiritual sight will involve a prolonged and difficult journey that will be filled with obstacles.

Truth: Only as that process is completed and men come to the place where they see who Jesus is, are their spiritual eyes opened.

This fresh clean water in the Pool of Siloam was called *chay/chaim mayim* - Living Water.

The Rest Of The Story

It is a story of the resistance the man met, the obstacles to faith that he overcame, and the gradual insight that he gained as he learned more and more about Jesus until he found himself at last at Jesus' feet and his spiritual eyes were opened.

A growing conflict takes place around 2 questions:

- Was this man really the blind beggar?
- Who caused him to see?

Consider: The religious leaders do not want to face the fact that Jesus had healed the man.

The people asked 4 times: HOW were you healed? John 9:10, 15, 19, 26

- The neighbors asked the man.
- Then the Pharisees asked the man.
- Then the Pharisees asked the man's parents.
- Then the Pharisees asked the man one more time.

Note: All of this questioning looked official and efficient, but it was a very evasive maneuver on the part of the people and the leaders.

- The Pharisees wanted to get rid of the evidence.
- The people were afraid to speak the truth.

Problem: They were asking the wrong question. Correct question = WHO

Key: People want to understand the mechanics of a miracle instead of simply trusting the Savior, who alone can perform the miracle.

- Nicodemus wanted to know how he could reenter his mother's womb. John 3:4, 9
- People asked how can this man give us his flesh to eat? John 6:52

Key: Understanding the process is no guarantee that we have experienced the miracle.

Evidence of Spiritual Blindness: Trusting Rules Over God's Work

John 9:8-12 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 asked.

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."

"Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

Key: He had not seen Jesus, but he had heard His voice.

Not only was the beggar ignorant of Jesus' identity, but he did not know where Jesus had gone. When he tells them he does not know where Jesus is, they take him to the higher authorities so they can deal with him.

John 9:13-16 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforesaid was blind.

¹⁴ And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

¹⁵ Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight.

He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

¹⁶ Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?

And there was a division among them.

Jesus Healed The Blind Man On The Sabbath With The Clay/Dirt

Jesus was also making a point regarding the Pharisees who had added many man-made laws and rules which separated the people from the love of God.

➤ The Sabbath did not become the Sabbath until God rested.

❖ He did not rest because it was the Sabbath.

➤ We are not to be in bondage to man-made rules and regulations.

➤ The plethora of man-made rules was impossible to keep. The intent of the sabbath was diminished and marred by religious doctrine and traditions of men.

➤ Result: Made the Word of God of no effect.

Their accusations against Jesus

He spit on the ground, made mud and healed a man.

1. The rabbis said it was all right to spit on a rock on the Sabbath day because that would not make mud, but spitting on the dirt violated the Sabbath because that made mud -- and making mud is work.

2. The rabbis said it was forbidden to heal on the Sabbath day.

If you find somebody with a broken leg you can keep it from getting worse, but you cannot make it any better.

3. Jesus used spit. There is a specific instruction in the rabbinical literature that spit could not be used because spit is medicine.

The use of medicine was forbidden on the Sabbath day because that is a form of work.

Spiritual Blindness: MISSED the amazing miracle.

- The Pharisees did not realize that Jesus was offering the people something greater than the Sabbath—the true spiritual rest that comes from God [Matt. 11:28-30]
- The Pharisees should have been praising God for a miracle; instead, they sought evidence to prosecute Jesus.

Evidence of Spiritual Blindness: Persecute God's Witnesses

John 9:17-23 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

¹⁸ But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.¹⁹ And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

²¹ But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

²² These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

²³ Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

Note: This threat of the Pharisees gives them incredible power in the eyes of those who believe they are the gatekeepers of the kingdom of God. The parents will not provoke the Pharisees by giving Jesus the credit for healing their son.

- They refuse to give God the glory. They lie about how much they know.
- They virtually abandon their son.

Note: To be put out of the synagogue meant they would be excommunicated and refused entry into participation and fellowship from the entire community.

The Jews had 3 types of excommunication: Nelson Study Bible

1. Lasted 30 days, during which the person could not come within 6' of anybody else
 2. an indefinite time, during which the person was excluded from all fellowship and worship
 3. one that meant absolute expulsion forever.
- These judgments were very serious because no one could conduct business with a person who was excommunicated.

Their fear indicates they did know who opened his eyes, but they lied and refused to say because they were afraid.

- They counted the cost and were unwilling to pay the price.
- They were seeking the honor of men and not the honor that comes from God.

Isa. 51:1, 7 Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

- So the clay of fallen, fearful, weak humanity continues to blind the eyes of these involved in this story.
- When people refuse to face evidence honestly, but in fear evade the issue [John 9:22], it is impossible to come to a united conclusion.

Evidence of Spiritual Blindness: Rejecting Christ Despite The Evidence

John 9:24-25 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we KNOW that this man is a sinner. ²⁵ He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

One of the characteristics of human clay is that it begins to fancy itself wise and powerful. We begin to think that we are strong and know much. One of the tragedies of any age is the arrogance of men of knowledge who claim to know but who cannot see their hand before their eyes. Jesus described them as "blind guides of the blind." [Matt. 23:16-24]

- Their fate: both will fall into the ditch.

John 9:26-34 Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened He thine eyes?

²⁷ He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear:

wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be His disciples?

²⁸ Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art His disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

²⁹ We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence He is.

³⁰ The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. ³¹ Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. ³³ If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

³⁴ They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

Key: The religious leaders officially excommunicated this man from the local synagogue.

This meant that the man was cut off from friends and family and looked on by the Jews as a "publican and sinner." But Jesus came for the "outcasts" and never let them down.

John 9:35-38 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

³⁶ He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

³⁷ And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

³⁸ And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped Him.

The Blind Man Sees: The man now reached the climax of his knowledge of Jesus Christ and his faith in Him. It is not enough to believe that He is "a man called Jesus," or even "a prophet" or "a man of God."

When, in the temporary darkness of his human clay he was at last brought to see who Jesus was, then immediately Jesus found him. God's hour had struck. Jesus opened his spiritual eyes with the simple words, "You are looking at Him, He who speaks to you is He."

Immediately the man responded by falling on his knees to worship this matchless Lord, this incomparable Christ, this Savior of mankind.

The Blessing of the Siloam Pool: It was more than a place of refreshing and re-hydrating.

- Mikvah = public bath for cleansing that rendered the pilgrims ritually pure before they ascended $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on the Jerusalem Pilgrim Road to the Temple Mount to worship God.
- You must be cleansed before ascending to God's Holy Place
- Steps lead DOWN for cleansing and purification; a place of humility before you ascend and enter God's presence.
- The clear refreshing water sent from the Gihon Spring to the pool of Siloam was Living Water.

Living Water, the type of the Holy Spirit, is connected to the 1st Power Gate, the Fountain Gate.

- We are to be continually filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.
- The Potter's purpose is to mold us and conform us, the clay, to the image of Jesus Christ.
- Potter cannot mold and shape clay that is dried out.
- The clay must be kept moist with water or it cannot be molded into its purpose.

II Pet. 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- The Word satisfies and renews me.
- Jesus Christ is the Well of Life. Keep on drinking
- His Life wells up inside of me as an overflowing river to touch those around me.

The water which molds us is the Word of God as we read and meditate on it.

- It is the sole source of knowledge.

Col. 3:16a Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;

Are you thirsty?

Isa. 44:3a For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: