**THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

**That You Might Know You Have Eternal Life, John 9:1-41**

Sunday, February 12, 2023

**WE Slide 1 THANK MUSIC TEAM. Pray for Music Resident- God promises to meet our needs.** Our definition of need sometimes different than God’s. **God’s timing not our timing which is how the blind man in John 9 must have felt. Why did God choose to heal him and why did He wait until adulthood?**

**TURN in your Bibles to John 9, pg. 1070.** We’ve been going through John’s gospel now for several weeks- ETERNAL LIFE. **Slide 2 What do you think of Jesus and His claim that eternal life comes through believing in Him; entrusting yourself?**

1. “Good guy, definitely something special about Him, at least more than a normal person.”
2. “I get what you’re saying about Him- He’s God/Savior, but I’m good; I’ll do what I have to do to get eternal life.”
3. “Not interested. I don’t want to lose my friends/family by following Him.”
4. “He is who He says He is- God/Savior and I’m trusting in Him for my eternal life.”

**Those statements summarize the people in this next event in the life of Jesus as He hung out in/around Jerusalem in the months before His crucifixion. Which person/people do you relate to most?**

**HELPFUL POINT: When reading through events in the Bible it’s helpful to break them up into SCENES and study each scene to get the point from the event.** Let’s see what happens in Scene 1 of this next event. **READ 9:1-2 Slide 3 What are the disciples asking? How could the man sin before birth?**

1. **Man sinned-** Judaism believed a child could sin in the womb; Hellenistic Jews/Greek philosophy- preexisting spirit could sin but the Bible doesn’t teach either of those things.
2. **Parents sinned-** OT- God would judge the 3rd/4th generation of a man who sinned but those passages refer to a sinful culture more than an individual/family.

**Jesus goes on to explain why this guy was be born blind.** **READ 9:3-5 Slide 4-5** God allowed this man to be born blind, live that way until adulthood, just so Jesus could show His divine power. **How many of us have asked why God waited so long to do something in our lives?** What have we learned? **God does what He does to reveal who He is.** Well, after saying that Jesus goes on to heal the blind man. **SUMMARIZE 9:6-12 Slide 6**

**GOD**

1. **SCENE 1: JESUS HEALS BLIND MAN,**
2. **Jesus Mixes Spit/Dirt, Puts It On the Man’s Eyes.**
3. He didn’t ask the man if he wanted to be healed, not told why; thought spit had medicinal qualities.
4. Jesus didn’t use spit every time He healed but did in Mark 7&8 with a deaf man and blind man.
5. **Jesus Says to Wash in the Pool of Siloam I’d be making a beeline to that pool!** Same pool John 7.
6. **The Man Obeys and His Sight Is Restored**
7. **Neighbors/Acquaintances Want Proof of His Story. Where is this guy Jesus?!** He doesn’t know.

**Not sure why, maybe because they felt the RLs could shed some light on the healing, or they wanted to get in good with RLs who were out to get Jesus, but the next day they take the man to the RLs. READ 9:13-17 Slide 7-12** Once again Jesus breaks their additions to the Sabbath and they’re not happy that the man is healed, they’re angry that Jesus breaks their law. **FYI- Every Christian denom. that says believe in Jesus, but then also do “ ” is doing the same thing as the RLs in Jesus’ day.** It’s not the Gospel. It doesn’t secure eternal life- ONLY Jesus does.

1. **SCENE 2: THE MAN BEFORE PHARISEES, John 9:13-17**
2. **REMINDER: The Sabbath-** a day of physical rest/spiritual renewal given by God to Israel; RLs added more/more things the people shouldn’t do thinking it would gain more favor with God.
3. **Pharisee’s Continue to Be Divided on If Jesus Is from God So they ask the man what he thinks.**
4. **The Man Says He Believes Jesus Is a Prophet.**

**This guy isn’t helping so they bring in the guy’s parents to help shed some light on the situation.** **SUMMARIZE 9:18-23 Slide 13** So, the parents come in…

1. **SCENE 3: PARENTS BEFORE THE JEWS, John 9:18-23**
2. **Parents Confirm That He Is Their Son and He Was Blind from Birth**
3. **Parents Not Sure How He Can See- “Ask Him!” Why didn’t they want anything to do with this?**
4. **Parents Afraid of Being Kicked Out of Synagogue-** the RLs agreed/threatened that if anyone said Jesus was the Christ/Messiah- God/Savior- they would be put out of the synagogue, kicked out of the community, excommunicated.

**They were no help so they call the guy back in- this is a great exchange.** This guys’ parents may have been afraid of the RLs/being kicked out of the community, but not this guy! **Look at this. READ 9:24-34 Slide 14-22** THOUGH BLIND THIS GUY WAS PAYING ATTENTION IN CHURCH… I MEAN SYNAGOGUE! **He gives biblical evidence of Jesus’ claim to be from God.**

1. **SCENE 4: MAN BEFORE THE JEWS, Part 2, John 9:24-34**
2. **The Man Defends Jesus Pulls from his own knowledge of the OT**
3. We know God doesn’t hear sinners but He hears the God-fearing; evidently God heard Jesus.
4. No one has ever healed someone born blind. **Well, except Jesus…**
5. Jesus has at least 2x so far, so the evidence points to Him being from God.
6. The RLs should have known from their study of the OT that only God heals the blind.
7. Isaiah 35:5-6a **Slide 23** speaking of when the Messiah comes.
8. Psalm 146:8 **Slide 24** speaking of the things the LORD does.

**The Pharisees Slide 25 are not happy about being shown up by this guy!**

1. **The Pharisees**
2. They insult him- “born entirely in sins”. You’re obviously a sinner who deserved to be born blind.
3. They are condescending- **Who are you to try to teach us?!** You’ve no right to teach us anything!
4. They kick him out of the synagogue/no longer part of the community; everyone in his life who wanted to stay in favor with the RLs would disown this man; he’s lost everything.

**We have a hard time understanding this but the synagogue/temple was the center of life- their religion was everything- their personal identity, social connection, business networking, physical support.** This man lost everything simply for defending the man who gave him sight. **Jesus knowing what has happened finds the man to give him the opportunity to join God’s family.** If the RLs won’t care for this guy, God will! **Like gnats flying around your face on a hot day the Pharisees are always following Jesus.** Look what Jesus says when He finds the man. **READ 9:35-41 Slide 26-32 Jesus asks the man, do you believe in the Son of Man?** **Why does Jesus say “Son of Man”?** Jesus is pulling from an OT prophecy well-known to Jews- Daniel 7:13-14

1. **SCENE 5: THE MAN BELIEVES IN JESUS, John 9:35-41**
2. **Jesus Asks, Do You Believe in the Son of Man?**
3. Daniel says one day there will come from heaven “one like the Son of Man”- the God/Man from heaven who will bring in a kingdom that will last forever.
4. Like Christians waiting for Jesus’ return, the 1st century Jews were waiting for this One from heaven- their Messiah/the Christ.

**The man wants to know who Jesus is talking about because he wants to believe in whoever that is.** Jesus says He is the Son of Man.

1. **The Man Believes Jesus Is the Son of Man- shows it by worshiping Him.**

**Then Jesus explains the POINT of the miracle-** using a physical miracle of giving sight to one who is blind to teach a spiritual lesson about the need for those with spiritual blindness to be given spiritual sight by God. **Slide 33**

1. **Jesus Explains the Point of the Miracle**
2. Jesus is the Light of the world- the One who knows who is spiritually blind/who gives spiritual sight.
3. He came to judge (show) **I thought Jesus said in John 3 He didn’t come to judge but to save. Is He changing His mind?**
4. Judge here isn’t His judgment; He’s come to force people to make a judgment about their need for Him.
5. Those who realize they are spiritually blind will receive spiritual sight through Jesus.
6. Those who think they have spiritual sight through their own efforts will hopefully see that they’re spiritually blind.

**Sadly, the RLs, still believing they have spiritual sight based on their religious efforts ask Jesus if He’s talking about them.** Jesus says your question is your answer. **They were unable to admit their spiritual blindness and their need for Jesus to give them spiritual sight so they remained in their spiritual blindness/sin.** Only Jesus gives spiritual sight/understanding/life, not religious rituals/traditions/personal effort. **As I asked at the beginning, with whom do you most identify from this event in Jesus’ life? Slide 34 Maybe it’s the self-reliance of the RLs.**

**THE CHALLENGE FOR US**

1. **SELF- RELIANT LIKE THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS**
2. **I got this! I’ll do what I need to do to secure my own eternal life.**
3. Some rely on keeping religious rituals/traditions; whatever the RLs tell them to do.
4. Others rely on their ability to do whatever good things necessary to say “I’m a good person”.

**I get it that it’s hard to break from what you’ve been told for so long by those who should know better.** But I have to be honest with you, when God’s given us the Bible and in it gives us what HE says about getting into HIS heaven, and then we reject it that’s a high level of arrogance right there. **Slide 35 As Jesus said in 9:39 to continue holding that self-reliant, arrogant position will cause irreversible spiritual blindness.**

1. **In Danger of Irreversible Spiritual Blindness**
2. We only have this life to make this decision- after death there is only judgment, **Slide 36** Heb. 9:27
3. Good deeds, no matter how religious, can’t fix our sin problem; only God does, **Slide 37-39** Titus 3:4-7

**THIS is what God says about how to have eternal life and to believe otherwise is to remain spiritually blind.** Maybe you’re more like the man’s parents who were religious, **Slide 40** but it was the potential loss of family/friends that kept them from wanting anything to do with their SON or Jesus for that matter.

1. **FEAR OF LOSS LIKE THE PARENTS**
2. **The Parents Feared Losing Everything**
3. The FEAR of losing friends/family, social connections, being invited to celebrations/festivals, business connections, kept them from having eternal life secured for them.
4. They gave up an eternity in heaven for earthly acceptance and an eternity in hell.

**Losing everything is a real fear, it’s happened to people in our church family, but know that Jesus is fully aware that we may be rejected which is why He formed His spiritual family- the church. Slide 41**

1. **God Makes Sure We Have a Spiritual Family**
2. Jesus was forming that spiritual family while on earth. **Slide 42-44** Matthew 12:47-50
3. John 14 & 16 Jesus tells us that we’re connected by something infinitely stronger and infinitely longer lasting than blood- God the Holy Spirit who guarantees that we’ll be together for eternity.
4. **Slide 45 Remember John 1:12** When we place our faith in Jesus we are adopted into God’s family as a child of God, part of God’s spiritual family. **I don’t have time to read it all but…**
5. It’s what the entire NT is all about- how we are to sacrifice, encourage, challenge, provide for, and comfort each other as brothers/sisters in Christ.
6. It’s why God commands us to connect together each week.
7. Our spiritual growth is connected to our worshipping/serving being together.
8. It’s why we are continually reaching out to those who miss.

**My prayer is that all of us here would identify with the MAN HEALED by Jesus- Slide 46 either because we’ve already believed in Him or we choose to do that today.** Jesus initiated a relationship with this man to perform a miracle in his life and I’m not talking about healing his physical blindness. **He ultimately initiated a relationship with him to heal his spiritual blindness and He wants to initiate that relationship with you this morning.**

1. **BELIEF IN JESUS LIKE THE BLIND MAN- Interesting to See the Man’s Transition-** Jesus is a man, then a prophet, then THE Son of Man- Messiah and Worshiped.

**So what are our TAKEAWAYS from what John’s told us? Slide 47**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Spiritually blind? Whether you identity with the self-reliance of the religious, or fear the loss of family/friends like the parents believe in Jesus for your spiritual sight/life.** Tell Him you believe He is God, ask Him to forgive your sins, trust Him when He says He has your eternal life secured, and worship Him.
2. **Slide 48 Spiritually see? Commit to worship Jesus with your life.** Get on the mission Jesus has given you, Be the Light of Jesus to others.Jesus said in 9:4 “we” speaking of the 12 disciples, but His mission was given to all of us in Matthew 28. Our job is to allow the Light Jesus is offering to flow through our words and actions.

**PODCAST: Jesus came to give spiritual sight to the spiritually blind. Find out how.** John 9:1-41; Hebrews 9:27; Titus 3:4-7; Matthew 12:47-50; John 1:12