

**“Who is Jesus?”: Light of the World – Part 2**  
**John 9:1-7**

**Introduction:**

- Coming out of verse 59
- Expression / illustration of how He is the light of the world
- Connects chps. 8 & 10, therefore he is still in Jerusalem after the Feast of Booths / Tabernacles (either the last day or within a few days)

**The Purpose of the Darkness (vv.1-5)**

- A) Object of Glory
  - a. Man born blind (exemplifies our sin condition from birth)
  - b. Outcast and beggar (exemplifies our radical dependence on “alien” or outside help)
  - c. Question raised
- B) Suffering and the nature of Sin
  - a. Sin DOES cause suffering
    - i. **James 5:15**, *“And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”*
    - ii. **1 Cor.11:30**, *“That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.”*
    - iii. **John 5:14**, *“Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”*
    - iv. Not Always the point of Suffering
      - 1. This does not presuppose innocence (Christ does not say they are without sin. Simply the purpose of His blindness was a result of God desiring to show His works)

- 2. Claim of the self-righteous (including the health/wealth movement)
  - 3. **Job 2:5-6**, *“5 But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” 6 And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.”*
  - 4. **2 Cor.12:7**, *“So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.”*
  - 5. **Gal.4:13**, *“You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first...”*
  - 6. **1 Peter 4:12-13**, *“12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”*
- b. Secondary Agents
    - i. Go to the furthest length to prove the point
    - ii. Illus. – C.J. Mahaney shared this letter at a conference I attended
    - iii. **John 11:4**, (Lazarus) *“But when Jesus heard it he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’”*
    - iv. **Romans 9:14-24**
      - 1. Not a study, but a simple address
      - 2. Sovereign purposes / Man’s choice
      - 3. Bottom line: As Creator, God has the right to do what He wants with creation

### C) Suffering and the Nature of God

- a. Works of God (**Isaiah 45**)
  - i. God would still be good had he not healed the blind man. When we are healed, we should be among all people humble and grateful, and absolutely without a sense of personal rights.
  - ii. Put on Display (vv.5-7; 11-13)
  - iii. For Salvation (vv.18-19)
  - iv. For His Glory (vv.22-25)
    1. Ethical issues (abortion of children based on pre-natal screening)
    2. Not only do we see this man healed, but the effects of that healing are far-reaching
- b. Work of man
  - i. Effected by God's sovereignty
  - ii. Limited Time
    1. Particularly for disciples
    2. Prior to the cross
  - iii. No other illumination
    1. Ultimately time will provide no more opportunity
    2. Apart from Christ's light there is no illumination unto salvation
    3. **2 Corinthians 4:6**, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

### D) APPLICATION: 2 Fold...

- a. Are you suffering? Is it a result of sin or display of God's works? Take heart, there is remedy for both.
  - i. God has not forsaken you
  - ii. God is using you
- b. Are you resting in God's sovereign work, responding in a saving plea and resulting in good works?

### The Power of the Light (vv.6-7)

#### A) Christ's Initiative

- a. The Sovereign administration of Spit
  - i. **Mark 7:33**, "And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue."
  - ii. **Mark 8:23**, "And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?"
- b. Combined elements
  - i. Mud
    1. Spit
    2. Dirt
      - a. Alluded to by Calvin
      - b. **Gen.2:7**, "then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."
  3. Creation and re-creation?  
Unknown.
  4. We just don't have a good idea of the symbolism here (if any)
- ii. Command

#### B) Man's Response

- a. Exercise of faith
  - i. Trusting that Jesus is enough
    1. Mud doesn't seem like much
    2. What more does He have to do to convince you to respond?
  - ii. Obedience
    1. Pool of "Sent" (the Sent one)
    2. Though faith must be exercised, nothing occurs in healing apart from

the initiative of the “sent one” (PNTC)

3. The pool certainly is in keeping with the allusion to the coming Christ and Christ’s claim of being fountain of living water

b. Sight received

- i. Returned to Christ
- ii. Remain in Christ?
- iii. We see Christ’s sovereign initiative, man’s choosing to respond in faith through obedience – Picture of authentic conversion

C) **APPLICATION:** Has Christ come your way and commanded you to “go and wash”? To obey and respond to His initiative? Or do you suppose you were spiritually healed, but went your own way, never to return to Christ as a worshiper?