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The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Man Born Blind

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THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

TWENTY-SEVEN: Healing a Man Born Blind (Jn. 9:1-7)

SURVEY

Jesus began this miracle by spitting on the ground, making mud with the saliva, put it on the man's eyes, and said: "*Go wash in the pool of Siloam.*" The blind man obeyed and was immediately able to see!

SIGNIFICANCE

- This is the only miracle where Jesus commanded the person to be healed to do something.
- This is the final of six miracles where the parents of the recipient are involved. The other five are miracles 2, 11, 16, 21, and 25.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Notice the insensitivity and callousness shown by the disciples here:

"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?" (Jn. 9:1-2)

As it can be seen, there was no desire on their part to help this pitiful man. Rather, his condition served simply as a focal point for an academic, theological discussion!

- At first reading, this seems to be a very silly question, for how could this poor, sightless man be suffering for his sin if he was born blind? However, some rabbis felt a baby could sin in its mother's womb, or that its soul might have sinned in a preexistent state. They also held that terrible punishment from God came upon certain people because of the sin of their parents.

This grievous error, of course, is totally refuted by both Moses and Ezekiel.

"The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin" (Deut. 24:16).

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wicked shall be upon him" (Ezek. 18:20).

- Jesus answered their question as follows:

"Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." (Jn. 9:3)

Here Jesus corrects that terrible teaching that says that all suffering is a direct result of personal sin. The disciples at this point had made the same false assumption that Job's three "friends" had once made (see Job 4:7-8; 8:20; 20:4-5), and that many modern "faith healers" today still make. However, God Himself had severely rebuked the companions of Job for their wicked judgment:

"And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath" (Job 42:7).

- After the healing of the blind man the wicked Pharisees interrogated his parents:

"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." (Jn. 9:19-22).

How tragic to contemplate the strong possibility that these seeing parents of a sightless son refused the light offered by Christ and probably died still blinded by their sins. Why did this happen? Solomon gives us the sad answer:

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Prov. 29:25).

This sad truth is reconfirmed on two additional occasions apart from John 9:

1. *"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (Jn. 12:42-43).*
2. *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).*

- The Pharisees continued their attack on Jesus:

"Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them." (Jn. 9:16)

Whenever Jesus enters the scene a division automatically develops. A person might accept His claims or deny them, but he or she cannot ignore them.

*"What will you do with Jesus?
Neutral you cannot be!
Someday your heart will be asking,
What will He do with me?"*

- The amazing response by the former blind man to Jesus' critics must surely rank among the most simple yet sublime answers of all time!

"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. 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." (Jn. 9:24-25)

- As a final observation, note the progressive revelation given to this healed blind man by the Holy Spirit regarding the person of Jesus:

In 9:11 he calls Him a man.

In 9:17 he calls Him a prophet.

In 9:32 he calls Him a miracle worker.

In 9:33 he calls Him a messenger from God.

In 9:35-38 he worships Him as the Son of God.