

John 9

John 9.1-12

-Remember seven miracles in the Gospel of *John* - this is number 6

-List 1 through 5:

1. Water to wine
2. Healing of nobleman's son
3. Sick at Bethesda
4. Five loaves and two fish
5. Walking on water

V1 – Why would John mention that the man was blind from birth? *V* 32 – very hard to cure

-Can doctors today cure people born blind? No, not involving a congenital defect

V2 – Rabbi = teacher

-The disciples wanted to learn something from Jesus (in contrast to the attitude of the Pharisees)

-**What is commonly believed?** That sin results in such things

Read Luke 13:1-5 – The tower of Siloam and those Galileans killed by Pilate

-Question of the disciples: "Who sinned – the parents or this man?"

-Jesus: "Just make sure you have repented"

V3 – Jesus rejected both ideas of the disciples

-Jesus doesn't answer the question of human suffering, but the result here is that God might be glorified

V4 – **Explain?** Jesus would leave this world and thus not be doing any more healing

-There is a time for us to act also – a time to obey the gospel

-If we put it off, two things could happen: 1. Night could come (death) and 2. We could lose interest in church and stop coming

-The time to obey the gospel is now

V5 – The Jews had chosen to walk in darkness

V6 – Jesus chose different methods of healing people (some at a distance, as with the nobleman's son)

-**Why did he choose this way?** Possibly as a test of this man – would he obey?

V7 – The man obeyed, and the result was that he came back seeing

-Pool of Siloam – see maps in the Bible

-Word for *pool* = big enough to swim in

-A denominational article on baptism said that there was no place in Jerusalem big enough to immerse 3000 people on the Day of Pentecost, but there were the pools of Bethesda and Siloam

-Very concise language here; not flamboyant

V 8 – What was the reaction of his neighbors? Amazement

V 9 – Other reactions? Some in disbelief of the man, but "I am he"

V 10 – Notice: Not "Were you healed?" but "How were you healed?"
-They conceded that a miracle had taken place

V 11 – How developed was this man's understanding about Jesus? Very elementary
-He seems to have attributed the miracle to spit and clay

V 12 – Maybe evil motives on their part to catch Jesus and persecute Him

John 9.13-23

V 13 – Why was the man taken to the Pharisees? *V 14* – The miracle was done on a Sabbath

V 14 – John adds this to help explain what is coming

V 15 – The man has a knack for brief language that summarizes everything in a nutshell
-His answer? Clay to eyes, I washed, I see

V 16 – Did they argue over the **fact of the miracle**? No, two divisions among the Pharisees: 1. Sabbath Day healing - he was not from God, 2. How can a sinner do something like this?

V 17 – They asked the blind man his opinion and Jesus
-His opinion? A prophet (note improvement since *v 11* – a man)

V 18 – What was the immediate reaction of the Pharisees? They didn't believe that he had been born blind
-Next action? They called in his parents

V 19 – His parents were questioned
-Notice the wording of their question: "...who you say was born blind"
-They wanted his parents to explain the miracle

V 20-21 -Their answers: born blind, now sees
-Ask him, he is old enough to answer for himself
-A carefully worded statement to keep the Pharisees from getting mad at them
-These parents are like many today: no obligation to speak out – just don't upset anyone and keep quiet

V 22 – Their motive? Not to get kicked out of the synagogue

V 23 – John adds this explanation

John 9.24-34

V 24 – Jews had preconceived ideas

- The healed man knew the facts
- He is getting clearer thoughts the longer this goes on

V 25 – This man does not seem to be afraid of the Pharisees

V 26 – **Their question?** Same as before: "Tell us what happened?" (*John 9:15*)

V 27 – **His response?** "What is the point of all this? How many times do you have to be told?"

- Same with Jesus – Jews kept demanding a sign
- The Jews rebuked the healed man
- Typical trick when one is losing an argument (ridicule)

V 28 – Notice how the man's position was getting stronger

- They called him a disciple of Jesus

V 29 – They claimed allegiance to Moses (yet Moses prophesied about the Messiah)

V 30 – The man has spirit and courage!

- A sarcastic response!
- When sincere people see the truth, they become very brave

V 31 – **Who was saying that God does not hear sinners?**

- *Psalm 34:15-16, Psalm 66:18, Proverbs 15:29*
- But there is Cornelius
- Solution: God hears prayers of sinners searching for the truth

V 32 – A miracle such as this was unheard of

V 34 – Belief of the Jews: the man was sinful at birth and was born blind

- This must have meant that he was without sin now (could see)!

John 9.35-41

V 35 – Possibly the man had not yet physically seen Jesus (sent to the pool to wash his eyes)

- Jesus wants to see if the man believes in him as Messiah

V 36 – **Why did he ask, "Who is he?"** He didn't know Jesus

- The implication is that he would believe as soon as he found out who the Messiah was

V 37 – See *John 4:26* – statement of Jesus to woman at the well

- The man could see and hear Jesus

V 38 – He believed and worshipped Jesus

V 39 – **Who were those who were given light?** The sinners searching for the light

-**Who were the ones who were made blind?** The Pharisees had the light but couldn't see

-*Matthew 23:16* - blind guides

V 40 – The Pharisees took offense at these words

V 41 – **Was the blind man really blind at the beginning?** Not in a spiritual sense - he was ready to accept the truth

-Not so with the Pharisees

-They claimed to have superior knowledge, but "None are so blind as those who will not see"

Revised 2013-01-12