Experience NEW LIFE Discovering Truth to Apply in Life & Reach Out in Love! Jerry Slaybaugh • Teacher 3.20.2016



LORD, I NEED A MIRACLE WHEN THERE'S NO MORE INSIGHT IN LIFE!

Lesson 6 • John 9

BACKGROUND TO THE SIXTH SIGN

The people continue to flock after and worship the signs but they are missing the significance of the Sign Giver.

This sixth sign goes to the heart of the need – *blindness!* In the blind man's situation we see:

There was no cure for blindness.

There was no **<u>career</u>** for the blind ... other than being a street-side beggar.

There was little **compassion** for the blind.

THE SIGN PERFORMED: GIVING SIGHT TO THE BLIND!

This Miracle Is Two-fold:

1) Jesus gives sight to **physically blind** eyes.

This case was humanly hopeless. Jesus' compassion overcame human hopelessness. The cure was undeniable.

2) Jesus gives sight and boldness to **spiritually blind** eyes ... which then expose spiritual blindness in others.

John 21:25 "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written."

So why pick these few?

This blind beggar is a spot-on picture of our spiritual condition.

We are blind . Genesis 2.	17
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We were **born** blind. 1 Corinthians 15:22

We are **<u>beggars</u>**.

Our spiritual blindness leaves us in poverty because we cannot find our way.

THE SIGNIFICANCE: JESUS IS GOD'S LIGHT FOR YOUR DARKNESS!

John 9:5 "I Am the Light of the world."

Jesus is God's Light to provide insight into New Life in Him.

1) Jesus is seeking you. Luke 19:10

John 9:1 "As He (Jesus) passed by, He saw a man blind from birth."

2) God is not focused on the cause but on the purpose – His glory!

John 9:3 *"…but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him."* Jesus directs them to not look for past causes but rather to look for future purposes.

Would God allow this suffering intentionally?

Exodus 4:11 Psalm 139:13 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

What He permits is for His purposes ... His designs ... His plans.

He may display His power in healing ... or in His sustaining grace in our lives.

God is focused on the purpose – His Glory! Suffering can only have ultimate meaning in relation to God ... and His purpose for our life.

3) Growing in faith requires <u>exposure</u> to the <u>Light</u>.

Review the four steps in the blind beggar's spiritual progress.

"A man called Jesus." 9:11

"He is a prophet." 9:17

"A Man of God." 9:33 ("If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.")

"The Son of God." 9:38 ("Lord, I believe.")

1 John 5:1 "Whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."

As a Christ follower, when you meet with resistance ... It's because you're going the right way! Stay with the message! "I was blind, but now I see!"

4) While we focus on being givers and doers, Jesus is seeking worshippers.

True worship will result in giving and doing.

But what Jesus is seeking is true worship ... that comes from the heart.

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

- 1. Do you worship Jesus?
- 2. Do you find your worship of Jesus *deepening* or *weakening* in the midst of threat and danger?
- 3. Does your worship *falter* or *flourish* when your family and friends are unbelieving?
- 4. Do you confess Him openly and defend Him with your simple testimony? "I was blind, but now I see!"

THREE STATEMENTS OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

- 1. Be *humbled* to know that God has a wise, good and Christ-exalting purpose for everything that happens to you.
- 2. Be *convinced* that Jesus is the only path to the full, final, joyful experience of that purpose.
- 3. Be *reassured* that, just as Jesus sought out this rejected blind beggar, He is seeking you to make you a courageous worshipper of Jesus.