

BreakAway John 9

April 3 & 4, 2024

Introduction

- John chose these particular stories for two reasons:
 1. That we will believe that Jesus is who he said he was
 2. That we will have a new kind of life because our relationship with him.
- This chapter also has meaning on two levels.
 - The miracle that helps us to know that Jesus is God.
 - The metaphor of spiritual blindness and spiritual sight.
- John 9 is a parallel story to John 5.
- Context: Jesus still in Jerusalem at the Festival of Shelters. Light and the water from the Pool of Siloam. John 9, an application of Jesus' words in John 8:12: "I am the light of the world..."

Minor theme: Sin and suffering

- Why is there suffering in our world? What's the cause? Who sinned?
 - We all ask this age old question. The book of Job addresses this.
 - The disciples show the common belief of human nature. Someone sinned.
 - In general all suffering and death comes from sin. God good and people rebelled turned against him and now the world doesn't work right.
 - The bible consistently rejects the idea that suffering is specifically connected to sin. Jesus rejects it. Instead, look for how God will be at work in every situation.

The Healing: Just imagine it!

The Pharisees investigate.

- The pharisees, convinced that Jesus is a false prophet and need to find the evidence in this situation to prove it.
- First they question the Blind Man. They ask him to give glory to God—not Jesus.
- Pharisees are divided: Some of the Pharisees cannot SEE the miracle; they can only see the violation of Sabbath. Others focus on the miracle and assume God is at work here.
- Blind man has no doubts at all. God must be active here. So Jesus is obviously a prophet.
- They question the parents, who don't want to get involved in this controversy.
- Blind man again! Who expresses his confidence in Jesus working with God.
- Pharisees, like all bad leaders, resort to power and shame. They blame and reject.
- Jesus leads the former blind man into his next steps of faith. Do you believe in the Son of Man? The blind man responds with trust, belief, and worship.

Major Theme: Light and dark, seeing and being blind.

- Jesus: "I came to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind."
 - Not mean, but a desperate attempt to get the Jewish leaders to look at their assumptions that keep them from recognizing who he is.
 - There is no guilt or shame in blindness.
 - The blind man has physical sight and spiritual sight.
 - The pharisees have physical sight but not spiritual sight.
 - They claim to see the spiritual world and God's work in it, but have obviously missed what God is really doing. They are against Jesus and cannot see (accept) his proofs that he is doing God's work.
- What does this mean for us?
 - How do we follow the blind man's example and not the Pharisees?
 - Think about your relationship with Jesus, when was your spiritual sight was strikingly clear? Thank Jesus for these times. Celebrate with the former blind man.
 - Are there times when your spiritual sight was more dull? When you are more like the Pharisees.
 - Maybe caught up in one of the polarizing theological issues and making this the definition of faith.
 - What are we focusing on or valuing so much that it clouds our spiritual vision?
 - This is a scary thought: People can be sure they know the Bible and have God figured out and still miss him. People claiming to see can be blind.

At the cross, at the cross, where I still see the light,
and the burden of my heart rolls away.
It is here by faith I receive my sight
and now I live happy –clearly—all the day.