

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What Do You Do with the Light of the World?

John 9:1-39

1 What do you do with the light of the world? **2** In Acts, Chapter 17, verses 26 and 27, we read, **From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.** **3** The idea here is that the world is stumbling around in the darkness trying to find purpose and meaning in life. It is trying to find God! **4**

The Lord responds to this by saying **I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.** **1** In a lost and dying world, our Lord comes as the light to point the way to God; to meaning and purpose. **5** So, the answer to the question "What do you do with the light of the world" becomes very important.

So John, Chapter 9, verses 1 through 39, give us an event which may help you answer that question. **6** **As**

¹ John 8:12.

he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.² 7

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” “How then were your eyes opened?” they demanded. He replied, “The man they call Jesus

² v1-7.

made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said. ³ 8

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?” So they were divided. Finally they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” ⁴ 9

The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this

³ v8-12.

⁴ v13-17.

the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ⁵ ₁₀

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do

⁵ v18-23.

you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?”⁶ ₁₁

Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.⁷ ₁₂

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

⁶ v24-27.

⁷ v28-34.

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”⁸₁₃

Before we can deal with our response to the light, we need to find the answer to the question . . .

I. What Did the Light Do? - v1-7

. . . What did the light do? That answer is in verses 1 through 7.¹⁴ We discover that the Lord uses adverse situations to display God's grace. In verse 2 the question is asked, **who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?**¹⁵

Why was this question even brought up? Because there were some Old Testament scriptures suggesting that sin was passed down from a person's parents.¹⁶ In the Ten Commandments we find this passage, **You shall not bow down to them (idols) or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing**

⁸ v35-39.

the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me. ⁹ ¹⁷ In Psalm, Chapter 109, verse 14, we have, **May the iniquity of his father be remembered before the Lord; may the sin of his mother never be blotted out.** ¹⁸ Then, in Isaiah, Chapter 65, verses 6 and 7, **I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps — both your sins and the sins of your fathers, says the Lord.** ¹⁹

But in Ezekiel, Chapter 18, verses 14 and 17, we read, **Suppose this son has a son who sees all the sins his father commits, and though he sees them, he does not do such things . . . He keeps my laws and follows my decrees. He will not die for his father's sin; he will surely live.** So, basing the idea that sin is passed down from generation to generation from these Old Testament passages is real foggy theology! ²⁰

Is sickness and sin related? Notice verse 2 and 3, His disciples asked him, **“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or**

⁹ Exodus 20:5.

his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. Sickness has nothing to do directly with sin but is often an opportunity for showing God's glory.

Sin originated in the Garden of Eden when Eve spied the forbidden fruit. She knew God didn't want her to approach that tree, let alone, see the fruit, touch it or take a bite! But she did. She gave some to Adam and he ate. He knew better! That's rebellion against God's authority over them! That's sin!

You and I have been following after their example through the centuries. We've been eating our forbidden fruit. We've been doing our own thing apart from God's will. So we, like them, suffer the same consequences for our rebellion; separation from God and death!

This man had been blind since birth. ¹⁰ I have been acquainted with enough people to believe this; the afflicted in Christ often have a more powerful testimony and prayer life than if they hadn't been afflicted!

Linda and I remember a dear godly woman we were visiting in the hospital. She was going through an extended period of pain prior to giving birth to her child. Her comment to us, "When I get to heaven I plan to look up Eve and have a heated discussion with her!" There was no animosity in her trial, just a cute sense of humor!

We knew another young lady, up in the Bay area, who suffered terribly from an extended illness which took her life at the age of 35! The testimonies of almost all the people who knew her proclaimed how graceful she endured her condition. ²¹

The Lord said, **He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the**

¹⁰ v1.

unrighteous. ¹¹ ²² **Sickness, potentially, happens to everybody!**

There are some cases, however, where sickness and sin are related. Venereal disease and alcoholism are the obvious ones. ²³ The plagues of Pharaoh are an example. ¹² This monarch stubbornly rebelled against God's command, through Moses, to let His people go. Every time Pharaoh resisted pain, sickness and death resulted. ²⁴ Psalm, Chapter 107, verse 17, explains, **Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.** ²⁵

When God provides His grace he usually allows His children to get into the action! Each one of you, at some time, have probably experienced a miracle. These are events that can't be explained any other way. They may fall into place with perfect timing and you just stand in awe. ²⁶

¹¹ Matthew 5:45.

¹² Exodus 7:20-12:29.

A miracle usually involves obedience from somebody.
27 To get money for taxes, Peter went fishing. ¹³ 28 To
have his withered hand healed, a man had to stretch it
out. ¹⁴ 29 To catch fish, during the miracle of the
multitude of fish, the disciples had to cast their nets. ¹⁵
30 In the healing of the paralyzed man, he had to take
up his bed and walk. ¹⁶

So, that's what the Lord, the light of the world, did.
Now . . . 31

¹³ Matthew 17:27 - But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.

¹⁴ Mark 3:5 - He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

¹⁵ Luke 5:4 & 6 - He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

¹⁶ Luke 5:24-25 - But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

II. How is the Light Accepted? - v8-38

. . . How is the light accepted? We discover that with the rest of the chapter. ³² Some reject the light in spite of the overwhelming evidence! Notice the evidence! ³³

First, they said he was not the blind man. Verses 8 and 9, His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” ³⁴

Next, they said he was the blind man, but he had never been blind! Verse 18, The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. But he was a local person, whom everyone knew, who had been blind from birth. ¹⁷ Could you imagine him faking blindness all this time! ³⁵

¹⁷ v1.

Then, he was not telling the truth. Verse 24, **A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”** Jesus could not have been the one who did it. ³⁶ But the evidence shows that something truly supernatural had happened. Verse 25, **I was blind but now I see.** Verse 30, **He opened my eyes.** Verse 33, **If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.** ³⁷

Finally, since he was out of line by disagreeing with them, they kicked him out of the synagogue. Verse 34, **To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!”** And **they threw him out.** ³⁸

Their final conclusions were, ³⁹ Jesus was not from God because He didn't agree with them. ¹⁸ ⁴⁰

Therefore, Jesus was a sinner! ¹⁹ ⁴¹

This is what God thinks about that kind of thinking, . . . whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one

¹⁸ v16 - Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

¹⁹ v24 - We know this man is a sinner.

and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ ₄₂

However, verses 35 through 38 show us that some people accept the light, even though their faith may be progressive. Let me explain what I mean.

You can't expect a mature faith from a baby Christian. Notice the progression of this man's faith. ⁴³

In verse 10 and 11, Jesus is a well known man. **“How then were your eyes opened?”** they demanded. He replied, **“The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes.** ⁴⁴

In verse 18, He is a prophet. **Finally they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”** The man replied, **“He is a prophet.”** ⁴⁵

In verse 30 and 31, Jesus is a godly man who obeys God. **The man answered, “Now that is remarkable!**

²⁰ John 3:18-19.

You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. 46

Finally, in verses 35 through 38, this man believes Jesus to be the Son of Man and worships Him as Lord! Observe, Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. 47

Which of these decisions are you going to make? In verse 39 the Lord says, **For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.** Is He talking about you? 48

Or will you relate more closely to this statement, Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so

that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God. ²¹ 49

What's your choice to be? Is it to continue stumbling around in the darkness that this world offers you? Or are you ready to come into the light and find the purpose and meaning that God has for your life?

<http://biblelifemessages.org>

²¹ John 3:21.