

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 11

**Review:** Last week we went through chapter 8 where Jesus was teaching in the temple when the Pharisees brought to trap him a woman taken in the act of adultery. They tried to push the Lord to either offend the law of Moses or the law of Rome. He paid them no attention and wrote on the ground. When they pressed him, he turned the tables on them by saying “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her”. They were convicted by their own consciences and left. Jesus sent the woman away commanding her to “go, and sin no more”. Then he turned to the crowd and said that he was “the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”. That statement started a firestorm among the Pharisees who want to know where his Father is? Jesus revealed that the devil was their father and they would do after his lusts. He ended the confrontation by saying that “Before Abraham was, I am” giving to them the same name that God revealed to Moses. They took up stones to stone him but he passed through their midst unseen.

**John 9:1-5** 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? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. *This happened just after Jesus left the temple where they tried to stone him. He saw a man that had been born blind. The disciples ask a question that is common to humanity “Whose fault is this that he was born this way?” This verse addresses the ancient belief that physical suffering or disability is always a direct punishment for personal or ancestral sin. Jesus overthrows that belief by stating that human suffering is not a direct punishment for personal or ancestral sin. Instead, he reframes the tragedy as an opportunity for the redemptive purposes and transformative power of God to be seen. “Working the works while it is day” means that he must do the will of the Father while he has time and opportunity. The coming night refers to the end of those opportunities because of death or lost chances to make an impact. He was saying that the cross was near so he’d better take this opportunity to heal this man and possibly lead others to faith.*

**John 9:6-7** When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. *This miracle is filled with deeper meaning:*

- **Test of faith** - Jesus could have healed him with a touch or a word. Instead, he chose to apply mud made from spit into his eyes and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. This man was healed because he obeyed even though it didn't make sense. Faith produces obedience.
- **The symbolism of "Sent"** – John makes a point to tell us that Siloam means "sent". Jesus repeatedly in this gospel says that he was sent from the Father. The illustration is that a blind man received his sight because he washed in "sent" water and received sight from the "sent" Savior.
- **Creation and Redemption** – Mixing dirt and saliva to heal the man references the creation of humanity from the dust of the ground. Jesus is actually showing that he is the Creator and Redeemer because he created sight for a man that was born blind. He is able to give light and life to the spiritually blind.
- **Public testimony** – Walking through Jerusalem with mud on his eyes and returning with his sight allowed the miracle to be openly witnessed by the community. This led to the religious authorities to investigate the event, turning the man into an undeniable witness to the deity of Jesus.

**John 9:8-13** The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. *The people in his neighborhood were astonished in so much that they questioned if he was even the same man. When they questioned him about it, he straightforwardly answered them. After inquiring about where Jesus was, they brought him to the Pharisees.*

**John 9:14** And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. *This is a common theme throughout this gospel. The fact that the religious leaders were outraged over the miracles happening on the sabbath revealed how spiritually blind they were.*

**John 9:15-16** Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. 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. *Every chapter we see how Jesus causes a crowd to be divided. We also see*

*the blindness that unbelief causes. An ungodly deceiver couldn't open the eyes of the blind.*

**John 9:17-23** They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. 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: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These *words* spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. *They asked the man what he thought of Jesus and he answered that he believed he was a prophet. The people that heard him didn't believe anything he said so they went to his parents. His parents verified that this was indeed their son but they didn't want to confess that Christ was responsible for his healing because they feared being put out of the synagogue. Being cast out of the synagogue was a death sentence because it wasn't just religious banishment; it meant being shunned socially and crippled you economically.*

**John 9:24-28** 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. Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear *it* again? will ye also be his disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. *Unbelievers never understand and are always confused. They make the man repeat the simple story over and over again because they refuse to believe it. They made Moses their Messiah which is idolatry.*

**John 9:29-33** We know that God spake unto Moses: *as for this fellow*, we know not from whence he is. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. *The man pokes fun at their unbelief by posing a question that puts them in a corner "Can a sinner open the eyes of the blind?" The fact that he did is proof positive that he is not a sinner and that he is sent from heaven.*

**John 9:34-38** They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. *When people resort to name-calling in an argument, they have essentially conceded the debate, signaling that they have run out of logical, evidence-based points and are relying on emotional attacks to compensate. The Lord finds the man and plainly reveals that he is the Son of God to him and he believes.*

**John 9:39-41** And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth. *The theme of this whole chapter is that a naturally born blind man was made to see while religious leaders who saw, chose not to believe, making them blind. Spiritual ignorance is forgivable but rejecting the truth while claiming to be spiritually enlightened results in unforgiven sin. Pride is the great barrier to grace!*

**Tonight's application:** We must be extremely careful about what we refuse to see. If we are ignorant about certain passages or doctrines or we just can't grasp them, there's mercy for that. But when we choose not to believe something that is true because "it wasn't how we were raised" or "that's not what my grandpa taught me" or "my preacher doesn't believe that"...all of those things can be barriers to keep us from the truth. The scriptures (rightly divided) must be the final authority for what we believe. When denominations, associations, churches, pastors or church members REFUSE to see what God reveals to them because of traditions and doctrines of men...the price is spiritual blindness in that area. It's hardest to give the truth to someone who is sure they've already got it!