

47 John 9:8-12

WILL YOU DANCE

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

The context of today's passage is that Jesus and a large crowd had just left the temple courts from a week long celebration. In that celebration Jesus claimed to be living water and the light of the world. As he and His disciples were leaving the festival He came across a blind man and restored His sight. The man was blind from birth and was either missing eyes or had eyes so damaged that he never saw the light of day, or the great lights of the temple nearby. Let's read our text.

READING THE TEXT

John 9:8-12

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your

eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

PREACHING THE TEXT

Something significant included by John is the reaction of various people to a miracle done by Jesus. Some will have the faith to believe Him and cherish the miracle. Others will have such a lack of faith and courage that they will do everything they can to deny the miracle or avoid taking a stand. Their fear is greater than their faith.

John 9:8-12

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”

The blind man follows the instructions of Jesus and washes in the pool. The blind man obeys and as a result

of the work of Jesus and the man walking it out in obedience he returns with his eyesight. Something that he has never experienced since his birth. This should be the most joyous occasion. Things like this do not happen every day. People are surprised when the laws of nature and physics are violated. And sometimes people do not know what to make of it when things like this happen. After all, he was there just a few minutes before Jesus came along and was there every day for decades. He made his living begging outside the temple so many people identified him as the blind guy outside the temple.

I remember there was a guy who lived in Duluth that was mentally challenged. And each time I would walk or drive up to 8th Street there was Tommy walking with a limp, left arm frozen against his chest and right hand waving at cars all hours of the day. I went past him hundreds of times and pretty much looked past him. We had nothing in common and we could not really share experiences together. I was so into sports and so freaked

out by Tommy that I kept my distance. But what if Tommy showed up one day dribbling and shooting like Michael Jordan or Lebron James? I would have to ask the question; is this the same guy that walked with a limp and frozen arm yesterday? My mind would have raced for understanding. Perhaps he was just faking a handicap? Or maybe this is his brother that has come into town that looks just like him.

A family member would be able to know with a quick glance that this was indeed Tommy. But for everyone else it would be very confusing and shocking.

So we can understand the confusion and surprise noted in verse 9;

⁹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”

IT IS HE

There were some in the crowd who had the faith to assume that Jesus is God’s Son therefore we could

expect to witness the miraculous. After all, they had seen their fair share of miracles in recent weeks and months. Bread and fish were created out of thin air so that a few loaves and fish became food for 5000 families. Lepers were healed. Cripples rose and walked. Demons were cast out. The wind and waves took orders from Jesus and obeyed. So yes, something happened. This is the same guy. He has the same clothing. The same appearance. And he is standing in the same spot that we saw him for decades begging outside the temple. These people were on their way to belief and were not quickly ruling out a God-sighting. But some were skeptical and slow to faith.

HE IS LIKE HIM

This second group sounds like the reaction of many when I have shared some miracles that God had done in my life and in the life of others. For example;

STORY: Stop...there is a deer

While attending college in Northern Minnesota I decided to come home for the week end. So I left well

after dark. I was playing all kinds of fantastic worship music like Petra and Keith Green. If you have never heard Keith Green you don't know what you are missing. So I was worshipping and praying out loud. About 25 minutes outside of town and a good 45 minute walk from civilization suddenly I heard the voice of God speak into my mind so clearly and loudly that I had no choice but to hear. The voice of God said; "stop the car now!"

There were no cars in sight on that lonely road. No street lights. So I could not see any possible reason to stop. On this occasion I responded to the voice of God and slammed on the brakes even though I saw no danger and there were no car in sight. The second I hit the brakes a huge deer suddenly appeared right in front of my car about 2 feet in front of the bumper. I never saw him until AFTER I had hit the brakes.

There are many times that God has allowed me to blast a deer without warning. But for some reason God

spared me that night. Perhaps it would have disabled the car. It was well after midnight and 10 below zero.

The next couple weeks this near miss was all that I could talk about because I know for sure that if God had not told me to hit the brakes before I saw the deer I would have had a collision.

Some of the believers knew in their heart I was speaking the truth and they rejoiced and said; “praise God that is amazing!” But several Christians said the same things that many in this crowd were hinting at; *“there must be a logical explanation.”*

The assumption is that God doesn’t do that stuff any more. And if someone is healed or a miracle happens there must be some logical explanation. Rather than rejoicing, the assumption is that God would not ever visit us with a real miracle.

The skeptics are not new. The skeptics from the beginning of time have been saying; *“there must be some logical explanation!”* There must be some logical

explanation to the way the universe was formed. There must be some logical explanation to why people who come to faith in Jesus Christ are radically transformed. And the skeptics in this crowd stated; “this is just someone who looks like him.” In other words, *there must be some logical explanation.*

I always thought that if someone saw a miracle of God they would automatically believe. But now I totally reject that idea. There were tens of thousands that witnesses the miracles of Jesus who ended up dying in their sins rejecting Jesus, despite the miracles played out right in front of their eyes.

This tells me that the miracle of faith in Jesus Christ is a miracle in and of itself. Unless God helps us believe we could see a thousand crippled and blind people healed and we would look for the logical explanation.

This chapter shows how several different people reacted to the miracle. You will see this played out in the coming weeks. The assumptions that people make about

Jesus and His power over the universe is revealed by their reaction to His work. So despite many doubters....

HE KEPT SAYING

....he kept insisting that it was him. He was the blind man that had been sitting in this very spot begging for decades. *“I am that blind man that you have passed by for decades. It’s me. Only I have been given my sight, I can see!!!”*

¹⁰ So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”

Okay, okay so it is you. Or so you say. But if you are the same guy that was blind, what happened? People born without eyes or with great eye damage from birth do not just suddenly decide to pop open their eyes one day.

¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’

THE MAN CALLED JESUS ANOINTED MY EYES

Why did Jesus use dirt to heal this man's eyes. I can think of two reasons.

First, it may have been that this man was born without eyes. If that is the case the Son of God who scooped up dirt and formed Adam and then breathed a living spirit into him did a similar work of creation in which He created from the dirt a new set of eyes for this man.

Second, it may have been the means Jesus used to make sure this man actually followed through on his command to go wash in the pool of Siloam.

Either way that point is that this same Jesus who healed this man and created new eyeballs for him was the same one from John 1 and Genesis 1 called the Word of God who said; "let there be light."

GO TO SILOAM AND WASH

Jesus told him to go to the pool. This is the same pool whose waters were just used in the Feast of Tabernacle Ceremonies. In that Tabernacle ceremony spoken of in

the last chapter water was poured out by the priest as a way of looking forward to the coming Holy Spirit and the Messiah who would come and wash our hearts making us acceptable to God.

John 7:37-39 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

This is the same pool used in the water ceremony. The same water used to illustrate that out of Jesus flowed the living water of The Holy Spirit. It makes sense then to use that same water that pointed to Jesus. The response of the blind man was one of obedience.

So I went and washed and received my sight.”

SO I WENT

Jesus issued instructions; “go and wash.” It seems that in his heart he knew this man spoke with spiritual authority. So the blind man obeyed. We have heard of all kinds of methods people use to try to spark revival. If we all speak in tongues or have some crusades or get enough people to say the salvation prayer then revival will come. If we play the right music in the right way or preach just the right sermon and the right altar call then revival will come. In fact one of the great revival preachers stated that revival could be spurred on by designing a worship service a certain way.

But I suggest it is more simple than that. I believe with all my heart that revival occurs when people obey God. God is speaking to each one of us through the word and the voice of the Spirit. He speaks into our minds and conscience. What if each one of us followed through in obedience with the things that Spirit of God told us to do. I think some blind people would see, people might get

healed, many would come to faith and a movement of God would be launched. It all starts with obedience. If God thinks it up and puts it in your heart... go with it, even if it is hard, because whatever God thinks up He powers up. A simple act of obedience in washing his eyes in the pool was the action of faith and obedience that was the blind man following through on what God had thought up for him.

What would happen if each of us said; “God, whatever you tell me to do, I will do it!” At minimum the presence of the Spirit of God would be so powerful in the place we could hardly take the glory that God would spend on us for His name sake.

The blind man obeyed and was healed. So now they want to see Jesus and verify the story from His point of view so they could understand and perhaps even worship.

¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

There is a good reason that blind man did not know where Jesus was. He could not see when he was with Jesus. We will pick up this account next week with Pastor Dave. Let's wrap this up with a few thoughts.

SUMMARY / TIMELESS PRINCIPLES

1. God did not forget how to heal people. Don't assume God is a deist. He does not heal everyone but He does something miraculous in each one that cries out to Him.
2. God cares for the poor the ill and handicapped, so will we if we have the heart of God.
3. Remember to look for where God is at work and join Him there and give Him the glory due His name.
4. If God tells you to take one step out of obedience take that step and watch your world begin to shake as His glory comes in.
5. Count your blessings and worship.

Everywhere I have served I have witnessed a handful of people who refuse to focus on what God is doing. There

is no counting of blessings. There is only counting faults and casting doubt. We believe in accountability and measuring fruitfulness. But we also must remember to notice the work of Jesus and dance with joy. Jesus spoke of those who refused to believe and who always thought *“there must be a logical explanation”* like this;

Luke 7:32 (ESV)

³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

Count your blessings and don't forget to dance.

TAKING IT HOME

1. What has God been telling you to do that you may have avoided or put off?
2. Is it a regular practice of yours to count your blessings and praise His name?

3. What healing do you seek? Sometimes God will heal people in this life. And if it not His will to heal you physically He will give you an equally powerful miracle of endurance and joy to show the world that there is joy in Jesus that can never be stolen.