

Sunday School Lesson ~ Redeemer Church – June 10, 2007

The Gospel of John ~ John 9:1-41

I. The Healing – v. 1-7

1. Who sinned?

◇ This was a common worldview of Judaism. The principle of retribution. Rooted in Deuteronomic theology. Jesus responds to the disciples question not rebuking that this could be a possibility, but that in this man's case, there is another purpose in his illness.

The Ten Commandments:

Exodus 20:5-6 ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, *visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,* ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Deuteronomy 5:9-10 ⁹ You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, *visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,* ¹⁰ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

2. The reason behind the illness: The display of the Works of God.

A. *What are the "works of God" that he is speaking of?*

1. Judgment in his blindness.
2. Miracle/Sign: the healing
3. Salvation

B. *What is the end result of the displaying of the works of God?*

1. Jesus as the Revealer of God, the Father.
2. To glorify and reveal the Messiah, the Son of Man, Jesus.

****John 11:4; 17:1-4 – giver of eternal life and glorifier**

of God.

3. "Light of the world":

◇ This is a repeat of 8:12. What is the significance of this theme in John's Gospel? What is John trying to communicate to his readers in the "light" imagery?

***Look at other light verses on sheet.**

Isaiah 49:6 ⁶ he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; *I will make you as a light for the nations,* that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

John 8:12 ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "*I am the light of the world.* Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 11:9-10 ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? *If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.* ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

4. Mud and Saliva:

◇ What's the significance? Some commentators explain this method of healing by referencing the early belief that saliva had healing qualities, was used in magical practices, symbolic of "clay" metaphor, linked to creation, or Jesus attempting to break religious taboos. Personally, I think that vv. 13-17 tells us what the meaning of making mud was for. The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath! What does this mean?

Spitting:

Mark 7:33 ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after *spitting* touched his tongue.

Mark 8:23 ²³ And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had *spit* on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?"

5. Siloam:

◊ **The Sent One?** c.f. Jn 7:37-39? John's comment has been inserted for a reason, what is it (ὁ ἐρμηνεύεται Ἀπεσταλμένος)?

Isaiah 8:6-8 ⁶ "Because this people have refused the waters of *Shiloah* that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, ⁷ *therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River*, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, ⁸ and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel."

Genesis 49:10 ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, *until tribute comes to him*; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

**A circumstance used to cause and test faith in a person.*

2 Kings 5:10 ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "*Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.*"

II. First Retelling – Neighbors - vv. 8-12

1. Retelling of healing: Jesus is the center of attention though absent from the scene. *c.f. Acts 3*

2. Confession: "the man called Jesus": Jesus has been identified, but this is only the first step in the man's journey towards salvation. As of right now, it seems that he is more amazed by the fact that he has been healed than necessarily who the healer was.

III. Second Retelling – Pharisees – v. 13-17

1. On the Sabbath again?

◊ Parallelism with John 5:1-17; c.f. Deut. 13:1-5; Is the work of God a violation of the Sabbath?

Matthew 12:8 ⁸ For the Son of Man is *lord of the Sabbath*."

Luke 13:14 ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because *Jesus had healed on the Sabbath*, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day."

John 5:9-10 ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. *Now that day was the Sabbath*. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed."

2. Can the man from God be a sinner? The Pharisees divided.

John 3:2 ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher *come from God*, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

John 5:16-17 ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

John 7:43 ⁴³ So there was a *division* among the people over him.

John 10:19 ¹⁹ There was again a *division* among the Jews because of these words.

3. Confession: "He is a prophet."

~ He is a man from God doing the works of God. The blind man at least knows that as he is tested by the Pharisees the relegate Jesus' healing to merely a physical technicality.

Matthew 21:45-46 ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because *they held him to be a prophet*.

John 4:19 ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that *you are a prophet*."

John 7:40-41 ⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?"

Deuteronomy 18:15 ¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you *a prophet* like me from among you, from your brothers- it is to him you shall listen-

c.f. Deut 34:9-12 – Anticipates a new Moses!

IV. The Investigation – vv. 18-23

1. Visiting the parents:

◇ How is this related to vv. 1-3? The Pharisees obviously do not trust the "neighbors" or the blind man. Thus, they return back to the parents who without a doubt ought to be able to testify not just to the fact that this man was previously blind, but that he was born blind. Here, we see John taking us back to the opening statements of the disciples in vv.1-3. Whereas the disciples wanted an explanation for his blindness, the Pharisees want an explanation based off of the parents for his sight.

2. Why would telling the Jews how their son was healed be confessing Jesus as Christ?

Innertextual evidence: This is qualified by the blind man's own testimony (he is of age; ask him) in **vv. 30-33**. Attributing this "work of God" to Jesus was indirectly labeling him as the Christ.

John 7:13 ¹³ Yet for *fear of the Jews* no one spoke openly of him.

John 19:38 ³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for *fear of the Jews*, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body.

John 20:19 ¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for *fear of the Jews*, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

John 12:42-43 ⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for *fear of the Pharisees* they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

V. Interrogation – vv. 24-34

1. A third retelling becomes a rebuke and a testimony.

◇ “Give glory to God.” A way of saying, with God as your judge, tell the truth!

Joshua 7:19-20 ¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, “*My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.*” ²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did:

2. The blind man’s response implies that he desires to be Jesus’ disciple. His defensiveness displays further progression in his journey to salvation and confessing Christ.

3. Disciples of Moses? This dichotomy is reminiscent to the Father/offspring debate in **8:39-59. c.f Acts 3; 21**

Exodus 33:11 ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to *Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend*. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Numbers 12:8 ⁸ With him *I speak mouth to mouth*, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”

John 1:14-18 ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 7:27 ²⁷ But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, *no one will know where he comes from.*”

John 7:28 ²⁸ So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from? *But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know.*”

John 8:14 ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, *but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.*”

4. A blind beggar teaching the Pharisees about the Messiah (reminiscent of Acts 4:13).

◇ The emphasis is not on his movement towards salvation and faith, but the unbelief of the Pharisees. He further shines light on their unbelief by describing the magnificence and wonder of this miracle. This of course strikes a nerve.

Psalms 66:18-20 ¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, *the Lord would not have listened.* ¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. ²⁰ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Isaiah 1:15-18 ¹⁵ When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, *I will not listen*; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before

my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷ learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. ¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Psalm 34:15 ¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and *his ears toward their cry.*

Proverbs 15:29 ²⁹ The LORD is far from the wicked, but *he hears* the prayer of the righteous.

John 3:2 ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that *you do unless God is with him.*"

5. Born in utter sin:

◁ Relates to vv.1-3: Because of vv. 22 and 34 we see that John shows us that this man just professed Jesus as the Christ. The work of God has glorified the Son and has revealed the Father, the one who has Sent Jesus as the light of the world! Here, the Pharisees disclose their hypocrisy as they confess that indeed the man was born blind. Thus, the miracle was real and Jesus had performed it.

Psalm 51:5 ⁵ Behold, *I was brought forth in iniquity*, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

VI. Enter Jesus – vv. 35-41

1. Jesus returns.

2. Son of Man: Matthew 16:13; c.f Daniel 7: How does John use the Son of Man title in his gospel and what is its significance here?

John 1:51 - 2:1 ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

John 3:13 ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

John 3:14-15 ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

John 5:27 ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

John 6:27 ²⁷ Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."

John 6:62 ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

John 8:28 ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

John 12:23 ²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

John 12:34 ³⁴ So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

John 13:31-32 ³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

3. Confession: "Lord I believe."

– Followed by Worship. He does give glory to God in the end by telling the truth and confessing the Jesus is from God and is the Messiah.

John 4:26 ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

4. Judgment: Isa 6, Matt 13:10-17; John 12:36-43; Isa 53:1

John 5:22-23 ²² The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

John 5:30 ³⁰ "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

John 8:15-16 ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.

John 12:47-50 ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment- what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

5. A reversal in who is blind and who can see from vv.1-2.

◇ The paradox of the gospel: Grace and judgment; Law and Gospel; Salvation and condemnation. **vv. 39-41** extract the theological lesson from the previous drama. Jesus is the light of the world. Those who love darkness will be exposed by his light and will be condemned in the guilt of their sin; whereas, those who love the light and desire truly to see will have the light living in them and will have the light of life, eternal life (8:12).

◇ At the beginning "the light of the world" gave sight to a blind man and at the end "the light of the world" blinded the eyes of those who say that they can see. This verse must be in mind as you read chapter. 10.

John 15:22-23 ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also.

6. Setting the stage for "The Good Shepherd" discourse.

John 20:30-31 ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 21:24-25 ²⁴ This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.