

THE BEST WITNESS

John 9

How do YOU tell people about Jesus?

Have you had the opportunity to tell someone about Him?

How do you go about it?

This morning we're going to learn from an "expert witness." Who would YOU choose for that honor?

I'll choose the blind man in John 9 everytime!

John is an incredible writer.

He uses simple vocabulary and sentence structure.

Yet he reveals the most profound truths!

Deep theological truth is packed into every sentence.

7 SIGNS demonstrate Jesus is the Son of God and we should trust Him.

5-12 introduce **growing opposition** to Jesus--in spite of the signs!

Opposition frequently focuses on fact He does miracles on the Sabbath.

They miss the point: miracles demonstrate that *"the Son of Man is LORD of the Sabbath"* (Matt 12:8)

Jesus demonstrates He is God's Son by healing a man born blind. **9:1-7**

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²& his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground & made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷& said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went & washed & came back seeing."

He's walking down road; passes a man who'd been blind all his life.

Disciples ask: In a case like this--when a person is born blind--*whose sin caused it? The person himself, or his parents?*

Same perspective as Pharisees (34): *"From your birth you are totally sinful!"*

Assumption: sickness is caused by sin.

Like Job's friends, people believe tragedy is caused by sin. *Bad things don't happen to good people!*

If he was born blind, somebody sinned! Who was it?

Jesus says their assumption is WRONG!

This man isn't blind because of sin.

HE'S BLIND SO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD CAN SHINE!

Frequently the tragedies of life [rel.] aren't caused by sin--they may be part of God's plan for our life--to let His light shine to the world around us--a way for Him to be revealed in us!

JESUS DEMONSTRATES THAT HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

He shines in the darkness to enable those who are blind to see. 9:3-5

He must seize the opportunity to reveal the light.

While light's shining; while it's day--while people can see light revealed.

Their work is to reveal the light.

Soon the light will be gone and darkness will prevail.

It will be too late for people to come to the light.

This man was born blind, so that people might see the light of the world.

The Lord gave sight to the blind man 9:6-7

Instruments God used: spit and dirt!

"If God can use sticks & rocks, & spit & dirt, to accomplish His will, He can use us!"

His neighbors want to know what happened

9:8-12 *The neighbors & those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit & 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 & anointed my eyes & said to me, 'Go to Siloam & wash.' So I went & washed & received my sight."¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."*

[Then the Pharisees started in on him 9:13-34--Dialogue between them:]

The Pharisees question:

15 *How did He do it?*

16 *This man can't be from God; He doesn't keep the Sabbath!*

17 *What do YOU say about Him?--it was YOUR eyes He opened! As if that makes him responsible?*

18-21 *He must not really be the one born blind! Let's check with his parents*

22 *The Jews had already decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.*

"Don't confuse me with the facts! My mind's made up!"

24 *We know this man is a sinner!*

29 *We don't even know where He comes from!*

Ideal witness responds:

15 *He put mud on my eyes, I washed, & now I see! He told skeptics what Jesus did for him.*

17 *[What do you say about Him?] He's a prophet? He must represent God?!!*

24 *[This man is a sinner!] I don't know about that--YOU'RE the theologians!*

All I know is that I used to be blind and now I see!

26-27 *[What did He do to you?] Again? Why do you want to hear my story again?*

Do you want to hear the story again so YOU can believe & follow Him? Are you looking for an

out? All I can tell you is that He mixed up a little mud, I washed it off, & now I see!

29-33 [We know God spoke to Moses, who gave the law. We don't even know where HE comes from!] That's amazing! YOU don't know where He comes from, yet He opened my eyes! [You'd better find out where He's from! This could be important!]

"I once was lost but now am found--was blind, but now I see!"

God doesn't listen to sinners.

God listens to godly people who do His will.

NOBODY has EVER done what He just did!

=> ∴ He must be from GOD!!!

Pharisees respond by throwing Him out.

When your eyes are opened, when the blindness is removed, and you begin to tell your story, don't be surprised if you encounter greatest resistance from the religious.

Religious people are often uncomfortable around authentic people whose lives have been changed by the living Christ.

He gave a *POWERFUL* witness.

All he did was tell what Jesus did for him: "*I was blind; now I see!*"

We never hear about *a single person* who responds favorably!

He isn't responsible for their response!

Effectiveness of our witness is NOT determined by *how many* people respond to our invitation.

NOR by how we answer people's theological questions.

Effectiveness of our witness is determined by whether people know how Jesus changed our life.

"I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see!"

He tells his story--story of what Christ did for him--faithfully!

We aren't responsible for people's response either.

We're just responsible for telling our story!

The punchline comes in the conclusion to the story--in the contrast to the 2 responses:

2 GROUPS OF PEOPLE RESPOND TO JESUS IN 2 DIFFERENT WAYS:

THOSE WHO TRUST JESUS are changed from blindness to sight 9:35-38

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, & having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, & it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," & he worshiped him."

The man born blind receives sight.

He understands who Jesus is.

He trusts Him.

He worships Him.

He has turned from darkness to light; from blindness to sight.

The divine dividing line:

9:39 *Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, & those who see may become blind."*

**Jesus has come into the world so that those who are blind might see.
so that those who claim to see might become blind.**

THOSE WHO REJECT JESUS are proven blind, though they claim to see.

9:40-41 *"Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, & said to him, "Are we also blind?"⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."*

Religious leaders CLAIM to see.

They investigate miracle **to *disprove*** His claim. **They demonstrate they are blind.**

"There is no man so blind as the man that *will not* see!"

Which group do WE belong to?

Will we acknowledge that we are blind & trust Jesus to receive sight?

Will we claim we can see, reject Jesus, & end up blind to the light of the world?

Which will we choose?

If you've never turned to the light of the world, you need to trust Him and receive the gift of eternal life He wants to give you!

God wants *US* to tell our story--**to show God's love to the world!**

=> Amazing Grace