

# Open Eyes

John 9:1-15

Jesus light of the world!

- As a boy Robert Louis Stevenson was intrigued by the work of the old lamplighter who went about with a ladder and a torch, setting the street lights ablaze for the night. One evening in Edinburgh, Scotland, as young Robert stood watching with childish fascination, his parents heard him exclaim, "Look, look! There is a man out there punching holes in the darkness!"
- We are seeing Jesus as the light of the world (8:12)
- Open the eyes of the blind physically, opens our eyes to suffering, open our eyes to the time frame, and open our eyes the spiritually blind.
- Opening the eyes of the blind is a work He allows us to take place in today. As we see in the story of Paul in Annanaias **Acts 9:17-19**

## I. A single blind man (chapter 9)

Why does he get an entire chapter? You are going to learn to love this man.

### A. Physical blind

1. he was a man in need to Jesus but an opener for a theological debate for the disciples
2. we have been there before when you drove by the man on the street

### B. Jesus saw the man.

1. He can understand how a loving God can allow something that seems unloving.
2. Knew something about the man.
3. Took what was available and helped.

### C. Jesus heals the man.

1. It is fitting the Potter would be able to modify the clay in this fashion.
2. He heals in a variety of different manners. It helps us focus on the miracle Worker and not the method.

## II. Suffering

A. They wanted to know the "cause".

### 1. Pharisee

- a. Pharisee's believed he was in sin. (v.34)
- b. Common belief in India & America

### 2. Disciples

- a. Disciples knew someone was to blame. (v.2)
- b. The idea that the parents' sins can affect their children finds support in the Old Testament itself (Ex 20:5),
- c. As well as the antitheses. (Ezek 18:20)

B. The Bible on Sin and Suffering

1. Wish could tell you suffering was never the result of sin. The opposite is true. But it may not be what you think. Suffering entered the garden.
2. Scripture describes four types of suffering viewed in terms of causes or purposes.
  - a. suffering as a **proving or testing** of our faith (Gen 22 Joseph; Deut 8:2 wilderness wondering; Job);
  - b. suffering meant for improvement, for our **edification** (Heb 12:5-8)
  - c. suffering as **punishment for sin** (Jn 5:14 Healing of a lame man.)
  - d. suffering that **shows forth God's glory**, as here in our story and later in the raising of Lazarus (Jn 11:4)
  - e. suffering that which comes from **bearing witness** to Christ, illustrated by what happens to this former blind man in being cast out of the synagogue.

*Jesus shifts the focus, and instead of addressing the cause of the man's blindness he speaks of its purpose: so that the work of God might be displayed in his life (v. 3).*

B. Jesus explained the purpose. (v.3)

1. Used to demonstrate God's power
  - a. Tim Tebow uses football to encourage those suffering.
  - b. Childrens Hospital and see small children take the platform.
2. Jesus was doing the work of the Father
  - a. Showing works of his Father (10:32)
  - b. and in the Father's name (10:25)
  - c. revealing that Jesus is in the Father and the Father in him (10:38).

*As is always the case in John, Jesus' identity and his relation to the Father are at the heart of what is being said and done.*

3. Jesus is looking at suffering and giving purpose to it.
  - a. Knowing Jesus must be far greater to us than having sight for us to properly understand suffering.
  - b. Works of God are being displayed
  - c. What is God going to do? Romans 8:28 is what you want to know.
    - i. Tyler and Gretchen's story of Judson.
    - ii. Wesley & Luke Coffey..
  - d. We can help others with the truths we learn in this way (2 Cor 1:3-11).

*When you see that God has a wonderful purpose for you pain and you trust Him you have your eyes opened to the true value of suffering. This assumes we Psalm 63:3. Better to be loved by God than life.*

### III. The Season we are in. (v.4,5)

**Jesus was in willful submission to the Father to set an example to all of us who are not God but do serve Him!**

A. Did the work of the Father.

1. The Father, when he sent his Son into the world, gave him *work to do*. ***Whom God sends he employs, for he sends none to be idle.***
2. The works Christ had to do were the ***works of him that sent him***, not only appointed *by him*, but done *for him*; he was a worker together with God. (as seen in verses from **chapter 10**)
3. He was pleased to lay himself under the strongest obligations to do the business he was sent about: ***I must work***. He *engaged his heart*, **Jer. 30:21**.

*Shall we be willing to be loose, when Christ was willing to be bound?*

4. He ***worked the works*** he had to do; did ***made a business of that which was his business***. It is not enough to look at our work, and talk over it, but we must work it. (as seen in the healing of the blind)

B. Did the work in the time He was given.

1. John 12:35 they will have the light a little while longer.
2. God has set us as a light. The Holy Spirit working through us to bear fruit. We must be aware of the clock.
3. The older I get the more I wonder if the sun is rising or setting in my life.

*Jesus is demonstrating God's glory in His activity on earth. As we saw in the first miracle in 2:11. How are you using your time?*

C. Do you know you are also created or recreated for good works?

1. Have you ever seen a issue in life and knew that you were created, given resources, and urged by the Holy Spirit to meet the need.
2. People love the new year because they love new beginnings. Let show them more than a new year and a new set of resolutions let's show them what "new lives look life"!

IV. The power of a changed life.

*As a believer you carry one of the greatest proofs of the power of the Gospel with you daily in your changed life!*

A. People could not believe he was the same man.

1. The Pharisee's want to know "how can this be"? (v.19)

B. I know I can see. (v.25)

C. Having sight cannot be replicated.

1. He testifies that this has never been done before.
2. When we lower Christianity to a set or rules and solely a behavioral change we make it so it can be replicated by the lost.
3. We must live a life that demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit. We must be about the work the Father has given us.

D. Man has his eyes open twice. (v.35-38) His response is worship.

1. Are you worshipping?
2. Do people know you were once blind?

***Use every circumstance, moment, and story from your life to glorify the Father!***