

“Open My Eyes”
John 9:1-7

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To The Gospel Of John:
 - Where - This Morning:
 - We Will Begin A New Chapter:
 - John 9!
 - Where - After The Incredible Events:
 - That Took Place At:
 - Jesus' "Talk At The Temple" - In Chapter 8:
 - Another Incredible Event Will Take Place!
 - Even - Another Miracle Of Healing:
 - Of Another Man - Who This Time:
 - Was - "Blind From His Birth!"
2. This Also Took Place:
 - On Another Jewish Sabbath Day:
 - That Fell Sometime Between:
 - The Feast Of Tabernacles:
 - That Was Going On:
 - In Chapters 7-8:
 - And - The Feast Of Dedication:
 - That Will Be Celebrated Next:
 - In Chapter 10!
 - And So - Let's Read John's Account:
 - Of This Miracle:
 - In 9:1-7 - "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. / 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!"
3. Of Course - There Is Much More:
 - To This Story In The Rest Of This Chapter:
 - But - What We Just Read Is:
 - The Record Of The Miracle Itself!
 - A "Man Which Was Blind From His Birth!" (9:1)
 - After Jesus Saw Him & Touched Him & Spoke To Him:
 - "Came Seeing!" (9:7)
 - And - Once Again - The Reason:
 - Jesus Performed This Miracle - And - The Reason:
 - John Recorded This Miracle!
 - Is So That:
 - As Jesus Opened:
 - This Man's Eyes!
 - Jesus Might Open:
 - Your Eyes & My Eyes!
 - So That - Even More:
 - We - "Might Believe That Jesus Is The Christ, The Son Of God; And That Believing Ye Might Have Life Through His Name!" (20:31)
4. Let's Look At This Miracle:
 - More Closely Together!
 - Where - Back In 9:1 - We Are Told About:

1. *The Great Problem:*

- That Is Seen By Jesus!
 - Again - 9:1 - “And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth!”
 - The Problem This Man Had:
 - Was, Of Course, A Problem:
 - With His Sight!
 - He Was Blind! He Could Not See!
 - And - We Are Told That:
 - He Had Been This Way:
 - From The Very Beginning Of His Life!
 - So - His Blindness:
 - Was A Complete Problem - And:
 - It Was A Permanent Problem!
 - And - For A Man In His Condition:
 - He Had To Rely On:
 - The Mercy & Help Of Others:
 - For Just About Everything!
 - What A Difficult Life:
 - This Man Must Have Had!
 - Even With His Parents Still Alive, Whom We Will Meet Later!
 - But - Though This Man:
 - *Could* Not See - And:
 - *Did* Not See:
 - The Group Of Men Drawing Near To The Place:
 - Where He Was Probably Begging Along The Street!
 - We Are Told That:
 - Jesus “Saw” This Man!
 - Jesus Set His Sights On This Man:
 - Without The Man:
 - Even Knowing It!
 - And - Personally & Actively Initiated:
 - Everything That Takes Place:
 - In The Rest Of This Chapter!
 - And - What We Will Discover:
 - Is That:
- What May Have Been:
 - A Great Problem For Man:
 - Was No Problem:
 - For Jesus! Instead:
 - It Was All Part Of:
 - His Great Plan!
 - In 9:4 - Jesus Says:
 - “I Must Work The Works Of Him That Sent Me!”
 - And So - Meeting This Man - With His Need - Was All Part Of:
 - His Work & His Plan:
 - For His Father!
 - What May Have Been:
 - A Great Problem For Man:
 - Was No Problem:
 - For Jesus! Instead:
 - It Was Also Part Of:
 - His Great Parable!
 - To Teach Us That:
 - What This Man Needed:
 - For His Eyes - We All Need:
 - For Our Hearts!
 - We Need Jesus:
 - To Open Our Eyes:
 - To Our Greatest Problems!

- Later In 9:39 - Jesus Himself Says:
 - “For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind!”
- So - There’s More To This Miracle:
 - Than Just A Physical Healing!
 - There’s A Spiritual Meaning!
 - And - We Need To See Our Need:
 - For The Lord To Open Our Eyes:
 - To Our Greatest Problems!
 - Because - When Jesus Comes To You:
 - Whatever Problem You Have:
 - Is Really - No Problem:
 - For Him!
 - Lord - Open Our Eyes:
 - To This Truth!
 - But Then - In 9:2 - We Are Told About The Disciples Reaction To Seeing This Blind Man!
 - And They Express:

2. ***The Great Puzzle:***

- In Their Minds About Him!
 - 9:2 - “And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?”
 - The Disciples Were Puzzled About:
 - This Man’s Predicament!
 - And - Their Question:
 - Betrayed A Common Superstition Among The Jews!
 - “Who Sinned?”
 - They Believed That:
 - A Problem So Great & Complete & Permanent:
 - Had To Be The Direct Consequence To Somebody’s Sin!
 - To Them - There Had To Be:
 - A Direct Relationship:
 - Between Sin & Suffering!
 - Perhaps The Parents Had Sinned:
 - In Some Egregious Way - And So:
 - His Blindness Was:
 - A Punishment:
 - Against Them! Or:
 - Perhaps The Man Had Sinned:
 - Or - Was Going To Sin In His Life - And So:
 - His Blindness Was:
 - Either A Punishment - Or Even:
 - A Prevention Of That Sin!
 - Some Of The Jewish Rabbis Even Believed:
 - That It Was Possible:
 - For A Child To Sin Against God:
 - In The Womb!
 - And - This Was A Real Puzzle:
 - In The Minds Of Jesus’ Disciples!
 - But - One Thing They Had Going For Them:
 - Was That - At Least They Knew:
 - That Jesus Could Put The Pieces Of Their Puzzling Question Together For Them!
 - So - Even Though:
 - There Were Many Wrong Assumptions:
 - In Their Question:
 - They Took Their Question:

- To The Right Person To Get The Right Answer!
- And - This Is What We Need To Do:
 - When There Are Puzzles In Life:
 - That We Can Just Put Together!
 - Puzzles Like - If Good Is So Good, Why Does He Allow Evil?
- As Fallen People - We Will Still Have:
 - Fallen Questions About:
 - This Fallen World!
 - And - We Need Jesus:
 - To Open Our Eyes:
 - To See & To Know The Truth!
 - Lord - Open Our Eyes:
 - To Your Answers!
 - And So - Jesus Does Answer Their Question In 9:3 - And Tells Us About:

3. ***The Great Purpose:***

- For The Man's Blindness!
 - 9:3 - "Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him!"
 - In This Case - Jesus Answers The Disciples' Question Directly!
 - The Suffering Of The Blind Man:
 - Had Nothing To Do:
 - With Their Sin!
 - Of Course - This Does Not Mean That:
 - Sin Does Not Often Have Consequences!
 - Even Direct Consequences!
 - But - In The Case Of This Man:
 - He Was Born Blind For A Greater Purpose!
 - "That The Works Of God Should Be Made Manifest In Him!"
 - The Purpose Of His Problem:
 - Was To Portray God's Works:
 - To This World - And Even - To Them!
 - The Blindness Of That Man:
 - Did Not Come About:
 - By Accident! Nor:
 - For Punishment!
 - Rather - It Was According To:
 - God's Own Providential Purpose:
 - That He Was Born Blind, Even From His Mother's Womb!
 - Think About - All That Time!
 - And - All Those Questions!
 - All Those Challenges!
 - All - For This One Day:
 - For Jesus To Show Forth The Work Of God:
 - In Him!
 - And - To Reveal:
 - What God Can Do:
 - Through His Works - And:
 - Who God Can Do:
 - His Works Through!
 - And - When God Does Work:
 - No Matter How Much Time!
 - No Matter How Many Questions!
 - No Matter How Many Challenges!
 - His Work Is Worth More Than Them All!
 - Because - Also:
 - The Purpose Of His Problem:
 - Was To Prove God's Works:

- *In This Man!*
 - Again - Jesus Said - The Purpose Of His Blindness Was So That:
 - “The Works Of God Should Be Made Manifest ***In Him!***”
- Jesus Wasn’t Just Talking About:
 - The Eyes Of His Body - But:
 - The Eyes Of His Heart & Soul!
- And So - No Matter How Much Pity:
 - This Man Must Have Had:
 - From His Parents / From His Friends:
 - His Blindness Was, In Fact, A Mercy:
 - To Him From God!
 - So That - One Day:
 - God Would Work Out His Own Good Will In Him:
 - Through Jesus Christ Himself!
- How Do You See:
 - The Problems That You Face:
 - In Your Own Life?
 - We Need The Lord:
 - To Open Our Eyes:
 - To See How God Can Use Them:
 - To Portray To Us Himself & To Prove Himself To Us!
- And - The Lord Can Fulfill His Purpose For Our Problems:
 - In Different Ways!
 - Sometimes - He Reveals His Grace:
 - Through Healing Us:
 - From Our Problems!
 - Just Like He Did:
 - For This Blind Man!
 - However - Other Times - He Reveals His Grace:
 - Through Sustaining Us:
 - Through Our Problems!
 - Just Like He Did:
 - For The Apostle Paul!
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. / For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. / And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. / Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong!”
- Either Way - To Paul & To The Blind Man:
 - The “Works Of God” Were “Made Manifest!”
 - Not Just ***To*** Them - But:
 - ***In*** Them!
- To This - Can Be Added The Testimony:
 - Of So Many Other Believers!
 - God Works Through Our Problems:
 - For His Glory - And Even:
 - For Our Own Good!
- Lord - Open Our Eyes:
 - To Your Purposes - Even In:
 - Our Problems!
 - Then - In 9:4-5 - Jesus Further Reveals:

4. *The Great Pursuit:*

- For His & Our Lives!
 - Not Only Did Jesus Want To:
 - Touch The Man In His Blindness - He Also:

- Wanted To Teach His Disciples:
 - About Doing The Works Of God!
- More Eyes Needed To Be Opened:
 - That Day - Than Just:
 - The Blind Man's!
 - Even For His Own Disciples!
- So - In 9:4-5 - He Tells Them:
 - "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!"
 - As Soon As Jesus Saw The Blind Man:
 - He Knew What He Had To Do!
- After All - It Was:
 - Part Of God The Father's Plan:
 - For This Man To Be Healed!
 - So - Jesus Had To Perform It!
 - "I Must Work The Works Of Him That Sent Me!"
 - Jesus Said!
 - And - The Reasons He Had To Pursue His Works:
 - Were:
- Because Of His Commission:
 - From His Father! After All - God The Father:
 - "Sent" Him To Do His Work:
 - In This World! Also:
- Because Of His Compulsion:
 - For His Father! Jesus Knew That:
 - The "Day" Of His Life:
 - Was Drawing Close To Its Sunset!
 - And So - As Long As He Was In This World:
 - He Had To Reveal Himself As The "Light Of This World!"
 - And - What Better Way:
 - To Do That - Than To:
 - Bring His Light:
 - Into That Man's Sight!
- And - Isn't This The Lesson:
 - That We All Need As Well?
 - We Need To Pursue After:
 - The Work Of God In Our Own Lives:
 - Before The Day Of Our Lives:
 - Turns Into Night!
 - And - The Night Is:
 - Always Coming!
 - Always Drawing Dear!
 - **IE:** Winter's Night!
 - Lord - Open Our Eyes:
 - To What Is & Ought To Be:
 - The Greatest Pursuit:
 - In Our Lives!
 - Because - We Must / It Is Necessary:
 - For Us To - "Work Your Works!"
 - But Then - Right After:
 - This Lesson - We See:

5. ***The Great Power:***

- Of Jesus - When He Finally Shows:
 - The Works Of God:
 - Not Just *To*, But *In*:
 - The Blind Man!
 - Because - In 9:6-7 - We Are Told:

- “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!)”
- On This Occasion:
 - Jesus Used A Process:
 - To Heal The Man Of His Blindness!
 - He Certainly Didn’t Need To Do Any Of This!
 - Because - He Healed Many People:
 - With Just His Thought Or His Touch Or Even Just:
 - The Sound Of His Voice!
- So - Why Did Jesus Heal:
 - This Man’s Blindness:
 - In This Way?
 - I Believe It Was To Be A Living Illustration:
 - Of The Very “Works Of God” In:
 - That Man’s Life:
 - From The Very Beginning!
- When Jesus:
 - “Spat On The Ground, And Made Clay Of The Spittle!”
 - It Was To Display & To Manifest:
 - God’s Powerful Work:
 - Of Creation!
 - We See Played Out Here:
 - In A Small Scale:
 - What God Did To Create Man:
 - In The Beginning!
 - Where - In Genesis 2:7:
 - “The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul!”
 - So - As God Created & Formed Man:
 - In The Beginning:
 - Jesus Was Able To:
 - Re-Create & Re-Form A Man:
 - Who Bore In His Eyes The Effects Of The Fall!
 - And - Because Of Who Jesus Is:
 - He Could Take What Was Considered:
 - Common Or Crude Or Even Unclean:
 - To Work The Works Of God!
 - Because He Is God In The Flesh!
 - God’s Powerful Work Of Creation:
 - Was Made Manifest In That Man:
 - Not Once - When Was Born!
 - But Twice - When He Was Given:
 - His Sight!
- But Then - 9:6 - When Jesus:
 - “Anointed The Eyes Of The Blind Man With The Clay!”
 - It Was To Display & To Manifest:
 - God’s Powerful Work:
 - Of Consecration!
 - The Blind Man:
 - Was Meant To Be:
 - His Whole Life:
 - To Be An Object Lesson:
 - Of God’s Glory & Grace!
 - And So - Just Like:
 - Oil Was Often Used:
 - To “Anoint” Those God Chose:
 - To Serve Him - As:

- Prophets & Priests & Kings!
- So - Jesus Used The Clay:
 - To “Anoint” His Chosen Eyes:
 - To Serve Him - And:
 - Display His Glory!
- Isn’t This What Jesus Said:
 - When His Good Friend & Follower, Lazarus:
 - Fell Sick & Died?
 - In John 11:4 - “When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby!”
- This Is Still The Work Of God:
 - When It Comes To:
 - The Problems Of His People!
 - He Uses Them To:
 - Consecrate You For His Use & For His Great Glory!
- But Then - 9:7 - When Jesus:
 - “Said Unto Him, Go, Wash In The Pool Of Siloam!”
 - It Was To Display & To Manifest Even More:
 - God’s Powerful Work:
 - Of Communication!
 - There Was Authority & Power:
 - In The Words Of Jesus:
 - To Accomplish His Purpose:
 - In That Man!
 - In The Same Way:
 - When - Back In Genesis 2:7:
 - He “Breathed Into His Nostrils The Breath Of Life!”
 - And - What Happened?
 - *What Jesus Said:*
 - *That Man Did!*
 - Jesus Said:
 - “Go & Wash!”
 - And So - The Blind Man:
 - 9:7 - “Went His Way Therefore, and Washed!”
 - Though We’re Not Told How:
 - He Got To The Pool Of Siloam:
 - He Got There!
 - And - Got Himself *In* There! Most Likely - All The Way In!
 - And Then - That Same Blind Man:
 - “Came Seeing!”
 - A Miracle!
 - It Was Jesus’ Word *To* That Man:
 - That Enabled God’s Work:
 - To Be Accomplished:
 - *In* That Man!
 - And - This Is Still True:
 - Whenever The Lord Speaks!
 - God’s Word Is Never Left To Chance!
 - Isaiah 55:11 - “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it!”
 - Need To Pray - Lord, Open My Eyes:
 - According To Your Power!
 - Even The Power Of Your Word!
 - So That I Might Be Enabled:
 - To Do Your Will!

Conclusion:

1. In 9:7 - John Also Gives Us The Meaning:

- Of "Siloam" - It Is:
 - "By Interpretation, Sent!"
 - Now - Clearly - John Does Not Tell Us This:
 - Just For Our Information & Trivia!
 - There's A Reason For It!
 - And - The Reason Was All About:
 - The Work Jesus Was "Sent" From Heaven:
 - To Do!
 - The One Sent From Heaven:
 - Sent A Blind Man To The Pool:
 - Called Sent!
 - The Word "Send" Implies:
 - Purpose & Intent!
 - So - Everything That Was Done To & In The Blind Man:
 - Had Been Completely Prepared By God!
 - So That His Works Might Be Made Manifest:
 - In Him:
 - At Just The Right Place & At Just The Right Time!
2. And - If Jesus Could Accomplish:
- The First Works Of God:
 - In That Man - What Else Could He Do?
 - In Him & For Him?
 - We Will See Later!
 - But - For Now:
 - Don't We Still Need The Lord:
 - To Open Our Eyes?
 - Open Our Eyes To:
 - God's Purpose & Power:
 - For Our Problems & Puzzles & Pursuits In Life!

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