

Jesus and the Blind Man

Explanation of the Picture

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The Fourth in a Series of Eight

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1. "JESUS" - The letters are green, representing His earthly ministry. Green is the color for life and growth. When dealing with Abraham's seed, everything Jesus did, and everything He does, leads to life, enhances life and ends in life - a life that will never end. In this case, His touch brought physical sight - enhancing life. When touching humanity through the blood of the Son, the touch of God is brilliant green - eternal life. When in God's Word, His illumination causes one to expand and grow. The recipient feels *life* welling up from the core of one's spirit. That revelation may be a nugget of truth about God Himself, or the work accomplished by the Son, or perhaps insight on some particular life circumstance. That leads me to another point - Boring Sermons.

Boring Sermons. This is an oxymoron - two completely contradictory terms. In Christ, there is no such thing as a boring contact. From Him flows the River of Life. A sermon in Jesus Christ stimulates, encourages, instructs - it gets all the cylinders firing. Anytime any creature comes into the presence of the true and living God, that creature walks away with excitement, renewed energy - life (or runs away in terror)! It is exceedingly grievous that pulpit after pulpit puts out **speeches** that are shallow, uninteresting and boring - in the Name of God. My friend, God is never boring - indeed, *He is incapable* of being boring. Any professed exposure of Him that is dull and empty - that is a fraudulent claim of exposure to the Creator. If you find yourself in such a setting - get out of it. Even the most God-filled environments we experience in this life are still very small glimpses of the life and power of God. We can only handle very small pieces of God. He could easily overwhelm us.

But the life-imparting touch of God comes in other - even surprising - ways. When He rebukes His children, when He disciplines them, when He scourges them - it is all wisely calculated *to bring life* to the targeted one! When comparing God the Father to earthly fathers, we find this remarkable statement; *"For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them* (literally, 'according to their reasoning or pleasure'), *but He disciplines us for our good, for the purpose that we may share in His holiness"* (Heb 12:10). God's disciplinary activity with His children is designed to make them more Christlike - which means more alive! You see, sin has a deadening effect. It callouses (Eph 4:19), hardens (Heb 3:13), and makes love, or natural affection, grow cold (Mt 24:12). God's disciplinary touch is designed to kill the death of remaining sin, and guess what it gets replaced with? His holiness - which is life!

2. The Blind Man. When Moses was contending with God about his appointment to leadership, we find this theologically challenging statement. *"And the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?'"* (Ex 4:11). God takes credit, or responsibility, for at least these conditions. But, I believe His forming Hand extends far beyond the list in this short statement addressed to Moses. He has formed us in the womb (Ps 139:13) and all the uncontrollable elements of our

life are in His Hands for His reasons. Race, gender, and all other physical traits are by His design. But I extend this to other uncontrollable realities - what age we live in, what country we are born in, who our parents are - God is behind all of this. There are no surprises and no mistakes. If these assertions are indeed correct, this is really quite terrifying - and theologically challenging. Does the potter have authority over the clay, or not? Does the potter have the right to make one vessel for honorable use and another for common use, or not? (Ro 9:20,21).

So, let's now consider the Blindman (in my drawing) and his affliction of blindness. Under the Law, God warned the Israelites, "*You shall not ... place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall revere your God; I am the Lord*" (Lev 19:14). This was a warning to the Jews. Later, when accepting the Law Covenant, the people were to "Amen" this charge: "*Cursed is he who misleads a blind person on the road*" (Deut 27:18). While it does not appear the blind were to be held in derision, we do find that blindness was called a "defect," and if in Aaron's line, that person could not perform priestly duties (Lev 21:17-23). So how were blind people thought of by the time Jesus graced the roads of Israel? Let's first look at the account from which this drawing and song arises.

And it came about that as He was approaching Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the road begging. Now hearing a multitude going by, he began to inquire what this might be. And they told him Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out saying, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' And those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet. But, he kept crying out all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He questioned him, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' And he said, 'Lord, I want to receive my sight!' And Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.' And immediately he received his sight, and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God" (Lk 18:35-43).

"*Was sitting*" is an imperfect verb which means this was a continued activity in a past time. This was his station and place in life. Upon ascertaining who was passing by, the blind man began calling Jesus, "*Son of David.*" This was a way of calling Jesus - the Messiah! In fact, the second time he called out, he even dropped the name, "Jesus" and went exclusively with the title, "*Son of David*". No doubt this made a few people uneasy. When the blind man first started calling out, we read, "*and those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet*" Fortunately, he did not listen to those "spiritual leaders." Do you know of other "spiritual leaders" who try to silence those who do not march in lock step with their theology, practice or agenda? For a present day example, go to my free Ebook, "[No Tithe for the Christian.](#)" There you will find interesting and challenging information on spiritual leadership. Concerning our blind man, isn't it interesting that those *leading the way of a proved healer* were trying to silence *a blind man*? What's that about? They should have been ushering this relegated-to-a-life-of-street-begging blind man into the path of the Healer! But no, they did exactly the opposite. They were "*sternly telling him to be quiet.*" This is another imperfect verb, which denotes **continued** action. It is also an intensive compound verb. They were *chiding* this blind man, *warning* him, *threatening* him - these "leaders" were accosting him.

Praise God this blind man was also temporarily deaf But why were these leaders at odds with the Son of David in this instance? Well, the account of another blind man in John 9 will shed some light.

John 9 - the entire Chapter. We get a glimpse of the theology of the day when the disciples asked Jesus this loaded question about another blind beggar. “*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?*” (Jn 9:2). This is actually a very stupid question - on several fronts.

First, it is automatically assumed that the affliction is the result of some accountable sin on someone’s part. God’s statement to Moses - that *the Lord* makes one seeing or blind - never entered their minds.

Second, our blind man was blind *from birth*. So, to ask if his blindness was because of his own sin *when he was born that way* is illogical at best. Jesus did get exasperated with all the spiritual dullness around Him on at least one occasion (Mt 17:17), but here, He kept laboring with His disciples - patiently.

Third, Ezekiel 18 did not even appear on the radar screen in their question. In that chapter, God went to great lengths to explain that, “*the son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity...*” (Ezk 18:20). So, the affliction was not because of the father’s sin, and to be born blind negates personal sin on the part of the afflicted one. This was a very stupid question.

But this question by the disciples reveals something deeper. How is it that the blind man was automatically viewed as unclean? Could it be that the prevailing religious doctrines of the day laid this assumptive foundation? Ah! The episode in John 9 completely unmasks the theology of the ruling Pharisees - if any doubt existed. When this healed blind man masterfully rebuked this entire group of Pharisees, their response was swift and revealing. “*You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us? And they put him out (of the synagogue)*” (Jn 9:34). This statement reveals their teaching, practice *and attitude*. The disciples had obviously been infected by this errant material. Their question to Jesus reeks with the error.

Herein lies the route of sin as seen above. Sin *affects* us, then *infects* us, and then *defects* us. It *affects* our sensibilities, priorities, and actions. It then *infects* us and makes us sick - either in doctrine, or practice, or both. And if allowed to ripen, sin *defects* us – and we are melted into the errant belief or practice (Isa 64:7).

While the blind men of Luke 18 and John 9 were *physically* defective (as Lev 21 states) were they then *spiritually* defective ones in these accounts? Closely examine the ones leading the procession in Luke 18:39, the disciples in John 9:2, and the Pharisees in John 9:34. Your answer will reveal if you can see - or if you are a blind man.

Object lessons. Each person Jesus healed benefitted greatly by the healing. That should not be minimized. But many of Jesus’ healings were also to be understood by the spiritually discerning as *an object lesson*. When our healed blind man of John 9 worshiped at Jesus’ feet, not only did Jesus receive that worship (an evidence that He is God), but He made this pronouncement for us all. “*For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see; and those who see may become blind.*” The overhearing Pharisees challenged, “*We are not blind too, are we?*” He responded, “*If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see’; your sin remains*” (Jn 9:39-41). He used this physical healing to drive home *a foundational spiritual truth*. When a person comes to the point of realizing he/she is

absolutely *enveloped in ignorance* about God - who He is, what He is, what He wants, what He thinks, etc., ... that is a great place to be! That person has placed himself/herself in a position of being touched by the sight-giving Hand of the Master. If you come to Him thinking you've got it together - beware! But if you throw yourself before Him knowing you are *absolutely blind* - you are a candidate for "eyesight." The best thing that ever happened to me was getting to the place where *I knew* I knew nothing about God. All I knew was that I was in complete ignorance and darkness about God - any opinions I had were based upon air. That was the best place I have ever been. The sight-giving touch of God enters those dark places. The healed one then begins "*following Him, glorifying God*" (Lk 18:43), and even writes songs like this one, and draws pictures like this one and writes articles like this one! The healing touch of Jesus Christ sets a lot of things in motion!

For those who are physically born blind - I know they must imagine what eyesight is like. But if they are Christians, the very first time they see anything will be on the other side of death's door - in glory! I do not know what those eyes will first light upon, but I hope I will be given the privilege of being a witness to those glorious occasions. My faith in the realities of these coming scenes - will be replaced with sight! God gives sight!

3. The Cup. When the Son of God touches a soul and grants sight, those new eyes see everything in new light. You will notice our blind man has left his money cup by that old dirt road. It is also tipped over. "*Old things have passed away. Behold new things have come!*" (2Cor 5:17). In this instance, his "occupation" was now history. Forget that old dirt road; it has been exchanged for coming streets of gold. Forget that seat of derision as a beggar; our former blind man is now a son of the King. And forget the need for handouts; this son of the King will be turned *into a producer* that not only provides for his own, but will also develop overflow to assist in the needs of others. While God may keep many of His children in current occupations, very often a complete change in how one earns a living occurs. If we can not do our work in the Name of Jesus, then that work ends. For more on this subject, go to my Article, "[Work and the Bible](#)".

4. The Robe. Instead of being covered by a robe of filth, a new robe is now in order for our blind man. He ripped it off, threw it to the ground, and came to the King. Before salvation, we do not realize how filthy our garments are. Not only are we covered in the vileness of our sin, but even our "righteousness" is filthy rags (menstrual rags?)(Isa 64:6). Blind eyes think our robe is an okay fit. After all, we can look around and see filthier robes. Compared to the robes of Hitler, the Clintons, abortionists, or corporate thieves, our robe may look pretty clean. But with new eyes, we see we are clothed in a robe that envelops us in the stench of death. With opened eyes, we rip that filthy garment off and throw it to the ground. We need a new robe!

"*He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness*" (Isa 61:10). Our old garment was a certificate of death that was hostile to us, and, when ripped off, it was placed upon the cross - and the wrath of God burned it to a crisp (Col 2:14). Our new robe is a royal robe - indeed "*the gift of righteousness*" (Ro 5:17). Wear it well, my brothers and sisters! It is free to us - but Jesus paid with His life to secure it for us.

What a God.

I know on my own, I can not see,
My eyes, I can't open – O please, help me!
Reach down in Your Power,
Even now, in this hour,
Give sight to this blind man - yes, me.

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Here's the song:
<https://youtu.be/riyFyP58pj0>

Here's the song “*Commentary*” and “*Explanation of the Drawing*” all in one video:
<https://youtu.be/51AcGJxojrs>