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John 9

Jesus had finished an encounter with the Jewish hierarchy and was able to miraculously leave when they wanted to hold Him. It appears that these events of John 8 and John 9 are in close proximity.

We do know from John 9 that the event of Jesus healing the blind man was on the Sabbath so that would be either after sundown Friday or before sundown on Saturday.

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Does anyone see anything in that commandment that says not to do good or not help another or not to heal a person? The Jewish religion like so many religions create rules that God had never intended. In this case we will see the creation telling the Creator what He can and cannot do.

We know the day from of this healing from reading

John 9:14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

John 9

1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was

blind from *his* birth. **2**And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

It was apparent that during this time people appointed physical and mental afflictions to sin, of either the parents or directly to the person afflicted. It seemed like a natural question for the disciples to ask Jesus. The notion that sin came from either the individual or the individual's lineage was a common understanding in Jewish religion at this time. It most likely came from Old Testament teaching:

Exodus 34:7 - Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear [the guilty]; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth [generation].

Numbers 14:18 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

Deuteronomy 5:9 **9**Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,

It all looks pretty bleak until you study what God meant and He gave the antidote to this thinking in scripture in

Deuteronomy 24:16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

Q. When Jesus said, “neither hath this man sinned nor his parents?” is that a correct statement the way it is written here?

The Bible nor what Jesus said are incorrect, we need to understand what He was talking about. It is obvious that all men sin. God has said that is true.

Romans 3: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Jesus’s point here is that this man’s affliction was not the result of sin but of God’s Will. Now that may be hard to grasp that God would allow someone to be afflicted for the sole purpose of teaching us something. It is however what has happened for a specific purpose and a specific time. We can see it happened in the entire book of Job. It is an entire study in itself and can be hard to fathom but God is God and He seeks after His own council.

Isaiah 48:10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with

silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

11*For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.*

4*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

Q. Why do you suppose the Lord used the analogy of “day” and “night”?

Night is dark, God made it that way and even in the creation time he added a lesser light to govern the night.

Night or dark are not colors, the closest color to night or complete darkness would be “black”. When we compare light to dark there are various degrees of light and dark. The total absence of dark is complete and total light. The total absence of light is complete dark. So dark is the absence of light and light is the overwhelming power over dark. So let’s see what Jesus says about “light”.

5*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

Q. How long is Jesus the light of the world?

As long as He is in the world.

Q. So what happened when Jesus left the world?

Did darkness take over?

John 1:1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2The same was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Q. Why not?

Jesus told us we were to be a light unto the world

Ephesians 5: 8For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

So, in vs 4 and 5 Jesus spoke of the need to accomplish things while the sun shines IE there is light.

6When 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, 7And 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.

Q. What was so special about this clay that Jesus spit into that would heal a man?

Isaiah 64:8 **8***But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.*

Genesis 2: 7*And 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.*

There is no clear indication as to why Jesus would make clay but we can decipher some other aspects here. We know that Jesus did not need to use clay but He did. He then gives the man instruction. He gives a command to the blind man to do something. The man follows that command exactly; the term used here is the blind man was “sent”. So we see Jesus sent a man that is afflicted on a mission. The mission was for the blind man’s own good, to go to a certain place; the Pool of Siloam and wash.

Can you think of another event in the Old Testament in which a man was in need of something because he was afflicted? He was told to do something and he objected to doing as told?

2 Kings 5: 1*Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given*

deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. [2](#)And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. [3](#)And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. [4](#)And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel. [5](#)And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

[6](#)And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. [7](#)And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

[8](#)And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. [9](#)So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. [10](#)And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. [11](#)But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. [12](#)Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the

*waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. **13**And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? **14**Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*

The clay may have been something to confuse the Pharisees so perhaps the real issue here is one of obedience. When sent, what should we do? When we go and do as God bid us what will happen?

We will gain sight, we will be cleansed. God says He prefers obedience over sacrifice.

***1 Samuel 15: 22** And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

8The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? **9**Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: *but* he said, I am *he*.

It is always astounding when investigating a crime where there were many witnesses. The memory or recollection of people as to descriptions and what they saw very greatly

most of the time. What is really amazing is what catches each person's attention.

We see here eyewitnesses, many have known this man or were aware of his presence for years. Yet when asked if this was the blind man many were not sure.

Have you known someone for along time before they were saved. And after they were saved they were not the same person? The change in a person that gets saved is often so dramatic that they are almost unrecognizable to those that have known them their entire lives. The miracle of God's ability to change a person is incredible.

1 Corinthians 15:16/17

1 Corinthians 15:16Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. 17Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

10Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? **11**He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. **12**Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

The truth is often simple and straightforward. Jesus made clay put it on his eyes, told the man to go wash at the pool of Siloam he did as instructed and he was healed.

The Pharisees Investigate

13They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. **14**And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

Yet another violation of the Law by Jesus, but Jesus was sinless.

Q. How can this be?

*Mark 2: **27**And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: **28**Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.*

Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, and the Sabbath was made for man not the other way around. Jesus knew this and taught this to anyone who would listen and obey.

15Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. **16**Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

A logical question: if a man violates the law of God given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, how can that same man heal a blind man? The real question is, did Jesus really violate the Law of God or did Jesus violate the rules of man?

17They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

18But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

these men might be commended in their investigation; they are seeking the truth for the sake of the truth it would appear. They continued to ask questions and even sought out the people that could answer the best and that was the parents of the man that claimed to be blind to clarify if he really was blind from birth.

19And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? **20**His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: **21**But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

Well so much for getting to the truth for the truths sake. They

only wanted answers that would aid them in their journey to accuse Jesus and kill Him.

22These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. **23**Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

We can only imagine the pressure that the Jewish leaders put on people to force them to acquiesce to peer pressure. In the Jewish tradition they used 3 levels of “put out of the synagogue”. The first was more of a verbal chastisement. The second could last from 7 to 30 days and could be renewed. The 3rd was the final option and would leave the person removed likely for life. All three were burdensome to the recipient and were avoided at all costs. The issue here was that anyone who declared Jesus the Messiah would be “put out of the Synagogue”. The parents didn’t want that to happen to them, so they redirected the Jewish leaders to their son.

Jesus addressed the issue within Christendom.

Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

The Christian method was to treat the person like an unbeliever, with Mercy, Grace and Love to bring them to repentance and back to the Body of Christ.

24Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. **25**He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner *or no*, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

This statement is the epitome of Truth. Truth will discount any lie and will stand its ground solely on the evidence of what occurred. (I don't know if he sinned all I know is that I was blind and now I see.)

A type and shadow of the Gospel of Truth is contained in these verses.

We are all blind from birth when it comes to the Spirit of man. That blindness overcame mankind at the fall of Adam and Eve. It has been passed on through the genetics of mankind and will continue until after the millennial reign of Christ on earth and the Great White Throne Judgment occurs.

Q. What is man made of?

Dust and water!

Romans 9:21 Does not the potter have the right to make from the same lump of clay one vessel for special occasions and another for common us

When the creator took dust and mixed it with water He got clay, He was the potter and man was the clay. He formed man in “their” image. Man was body, soul and spirit. All working as designed until the fall. The potter did His job well but the work He produced failed and fell for one simple reason; God wanted companionship with man so He gave man free will to choose to fellowship with God out of a heart of Love.

After the fall the spirit of man was blinded to God, it could not see Him until some miraculous event happened to relieve man of His sin. In this case the type and shadow was not based on a sin it was simply based on God wanting to restore the sight of one who could not see and was allowed to be blind so the Creator could provide a lesson to mankind.

The creator knelt down, took dirt and with the saliva of His own body made clay once again and formed the eyes so that man could once again see the Creator God.

26Then said they to him again, What did he to thee?
how opened he thine eyes? **27**He answered them, I

**have told you already, and ye did not hear:
wherefore would ye hear *it* again? will ye also be
his disciples?**

Talk about boldness. The Priests had already threatened anyone who would confess that He was the (Messiah) Christ he should be put out of the synagogue.

22These *words* spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

This blind man did not call Jesus the Christ but he definitely called these Jews “stupid”, and they didn’t like that much. He will continue with an excellent sermon to those who needed it badly. He will tune them up so to speak on the reality of TRUTH. Darkness does not like the light and when light is shown on darkness it disperses. Since the Jews would not disperse, they dispersed the light shortly.

28Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. **29**We know that God spake unto Moses: *as for this fellow*, we know not from whence he is.

Maybe they need to speak louder like the priest of Baal when Elijah challenged them to a duel of who’s “god” is the real God.

Remember Elijah when Baal worshipers failed to get Baal to respond Elijah suggested that they yell louder perhaps he was taking a nap or on a trip.

1 Kings 18²⁵*Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.”* ²⁶*So they took the bull given them and prepared it.*

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷*At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.”* ²⁸*So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.* ²⁹*Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.*

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³⁰*The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.*

³¹*Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*

That is an interesting statement.

Q. Does God hear sinners?

Romans 5: [6](#)For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. [7](#)For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. [8](#)But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9](#)Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. [10](#)For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. [11](#)And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

If Jesus would die for our sins while we were still in our sins, doesn't it stand to reason that He would hear the prayers of a sinner? How else can the unsaved be saved if not praying to God for forgiveness while still in sin? And after being saved do we sin no more? So we are still sinners and God still hears our prayers as forgiven sinners. But God wants us to abandon sin and walk in His Righteousness. We are told this about righteousness and prayer.

James 5: [16](#)Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Q. What did the Old Testament teach on this issue that this man would say this?

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Strong's Concordance

“Phonetic Spelling: (ak-oo'-o)

Definition: I hear, listen, comprehend by hearing; pass: is heard, reported.”

Q. Is there a difference between “hearing” and “listening”?

We hear many things every day of our lives and much of what we hear is recorded in our minds but not in such a way that it can be retrieved. When we listen we involve other mechanisms within our minds that make what we hear retrievable.

Q. What takes us from “listening” to “understanding”

[Matthew 13:14](#)

In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon (“Immediately” definition added by me) with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is

*offended. **22**He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. **23**But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

32Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

33If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

I found no scripture wherein anyone to this point had been healed of blindness. There are scriptures where men who could see were blinded: one of which is Genesis 19:11

The angels in Sodom Genesis 19 smote the men of the town with blindness so they would weary themselves to even find the door to Lot's house.

34They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

As we saw there were Old Testament verses that show God declaring that He would visit punishment on the children to three generations. The Jews had misunderstood what God was saying and cast that punishment on this man that was healed of blindness by Jesus.

John 8:41.....We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Jesus has taken this blind man from blindness to sight and will now take him from hearing to understanding. This man was not blind due to sin, he was blind because God had need of him to bring sight to the world, if the world would only listen to His Son and see what He carried out with this blind man.

Spiritual Sight and Blindness

35Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, **Dost thou believe on the Son of God?** **36**He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? **37**And Jesus said unto him, **Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.** **38**And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

Jesus asks first if this man believed in the Son of God. His response was a question. "Who is the Son of God?" Jesus understood that His question would not be answered. If He would have asked this man, who healed you, the man could have answered easily, but instead He asks him if he believes in the Son of God. The man's question back to Jesus is exactly what Jesus wanted. Jesus uses the same tactic as He used with the woman at the well and with us. He gently leads us from being blind or thirsty to seeing and desiring to

be where we will never thirst again. Once we have reached that point then He reveals who He really is and it all makes sense. The only thing left then is to worship our Creator God who in the form of Jesus came to earth to give us sight.

39And Jesus said, **For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.**

Strong's Concordance

"Judgment in Greek is;

Phonetic Spelling: (kree'-mah)

Definition: (a) a judgment, a verdict; sometimes implying an adverse verdict, a condemnation, (b) a case at law, a lawsuit."

So, this judgment is to take those who are blind and give them sight meaning of course "spiritual" sight, and understanding and to take those that "see"; meaning physically with no intention of seeing spiritually might be blinded to the spiritual truths of God's Word and Universe.

40And *some* of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? **41**Jesus said unto them, **If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.**

Q. What sin did Jesus just accuse them of in this last verse.

Perhaps of arrogance. When one refuses to examine oneself, to see if there is any fault in him, he believes he sees himself clearly. A sinner saved by grace doesn't even have to wonder if he is a sinner, he knows he is a sinner because he can see the truth and the truth is that we are all sinners and deserve death.

Romans 3: 21But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

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