

Great Physician

Blind from Birth - *John 9*



series: The Jesus I Follow

week 6

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?"

Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world's Light."

He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man's eyes, and said, "Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam". The man went and washed — and saw.

- John 9:1-7, The Message

One of the first things Jesus did when He began his public ministry was heal people. In Mark's gospel, he had no sooner called His disciples than he cast a demon out of a man in the synagogue, and then He walked across the street and healed Peter's mother-in-law. You can imagine what a stir that caused. Mark records: *"That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases."* Pretty soon a pattern developed: heal, teach, heal, teach, feed thousands, confront religious authorities, heal, teach.

Over the course of the next three years, Jesus became known not only as a miracle-worker, a great teacher, a revolutionary who challenged the status quo, the promised Messiah - but also as a great physician. Hundreds of people could attest that he personally, physically touched them—and their pain was gone. They were made whole.

Extra credit web assignment: Go to the FBC web site (www.fbccs.org), look up "Resources" then "Insight Papers" then "The Life of Jesus Christ". On page 2 there is a list of Jesus' miracles. How many of them were healings?

Do you think that any of the people who were healed ever got sick again? If so, then what was the point of the healing?

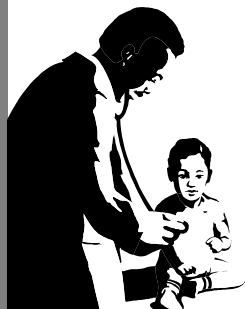
On hearing this, Jesus said to them,

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- Mark 2:17

It has been said that a lawyer sees men at their worst, a minister sees men at their best, and a doctor sees men as they are. A doctor sees people stripped of the accidental externals of life. The doctor sees someone, not as a prince or a pauper, not as a laborer, a stockbroker, a professor, a teacher, an engineer, a clerk, a shopkeeper, but as a human being in need of help and healing."

- William Barclay,
Jesus as They Saw Him



The man born blind—John 9

John is a master story-teller, and this chapter is written like a movie script, complete with engaging dialogue and a cast of highly-defined characters.

Read verses 1-7. The basic healing is described in these few verses, but it is preceded by a Q-and-A session between Jesus and his disciples. What's the issue, and how does Jesus answer it?



Briefly describe each of the following “close encounters” and note the growing sense of tension.

- (8-12) **Encounter #1:** the neighbors
What is odd about this exchange?
- (13-17) **Encounter #2:** the Pharisees
What do the religious leaders seem concerned about?
- (18-23) **Encounter #3:** the parents
How do the parents disappoint us?
- (24-34) **Encounter #4:** the Pharisees... again
In what way does the man become bold?
- (35-38) **Encounter #5:** Jesus
Who initiates this meeting?
- (39-41) **Encounter #6:** the Pharisees... AGAIN!
What does Jesus mean by his concluding statement?

Sometime ago I had to visit a friend who was psychologically unbalanced. I talked to the psychiatrist. I said: “I suppose that when he comes out of this hospital he will be quite cured, repressions, inhibitions, complexes gone, a new man.” The psychiatrist looked at me thoughtfully. “So,” he said, “you are another man who believes in psychiatrists?” I said that I had been led so to believe. “Let me tell you something,” said the psychiatrist. “We can only strip a man naked until we see him as he is; and if, when we have done that, he is bad stuff, we can’t do a thing about it. *That’s where you come in.*” So even the doctor saw in Christ the healer whose power can operate when the power of men is baffled, for Christ can not only cure, he can recreate.”

- William Barclay

Life Responses:

1. How would you say that Jesus has healed you? Think of some ways in which your life is healthier than when you first met Christ.
2. Is there some area of your life that still needs healing? Have you talked to God about this? Are you willing to undergo whatever surgery may be necessary for Him to heal you?