

IMMEDIATE OBEDIENCE

Seeing God's Power Released
Through Simple Faith

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INTRODUCTION – Grace That Sees You

Before the miracle, before the command, before the mud, Jesus saw him. This is the opening vision for our journey through John 9: a portrait of grace that arrives before our awareness, initiates before our asking, and personalizes purpose before we can articulate need.

In this introduction, we encounter a God whose gaze precedes our grasp, a Savior whose sight dignifies our story. When Scripture says Jesus saw him, it is not casual observation; it is covenant attention. Divine sight is the seed of divine transformation, and the miracle begins not with our movement, but with His mindfulness.

Grace does not wait for readiness. Grace arrives because God is present. This man's story reminds us that divine encounters often begin without our awareness.

Jesus sees us in conditions we did not choose and offers purpose where others assign blame. The implications are liberating: you are not overlooked; you are anticipated. You are not a problem to solve; you are a person to be seen.

Where culture assigns fault lines and friends wonder who's to blame, Jesus assigns future and calls it glory. Where shame narrows your world, grace widens your horizon. Before questions are formed on human lips, answers rest in divine heart.

You may not feel ready, worthy, or even willing, yet grace interrupts the script with presence. This is not sentimental optimism; it is theological reality, incarnation in motion. God with us is God for us; God for us becomes God moving toward us.

As you enter this message, allow yourself to be seen. Let grace address you where you are, not where you think you should be. Receive the dignity of being beheld by the One who knows your past, navigates your present, and writes your future.

If grace starts with sight, then hope begins with being found. Welcome to a narrative where seeing leads to sending, where mud becomes mercy's medium, and where ordinary obedience turns into undeniable transformation.



CHAPTER 1 – When Jesus Passes By

John 9:1. Jesus did not stop because the man called Him. He stopped because compassion compelled Him. This is the grace of God, uninvited, unearned, and undeniable.

Every time Jesus passes by in the Gospels, interruption becomes invitation. Presence becomes possibility. And here, grace acts before the man even knows to ask. Grace sees you before you see yourself. That single sentence reframes identity: we are not self-invented; we are God-acknowledged.

When Jesus passes by, He refuses to reduce us to labels, limitations, or lingering narratives others have written. He beholds image-bearers. His compassion is not pity from a distance but movement into proximity.

The cadence of the Kingdom is compassion first, explanation later. We often assume encounter depends on our fervor, eloquence, or spiritual readiness; yet the text insists that encounter depends on Christ's character.

Compassion compels the Christ, not credentials compelling the sinner.

The man's silence is not a barrier, and neither is yours. Some of the most significant shifts in our lives begin when we are unaware, when Jesus passes by and notices what others have normalized or ignored. The call, then, is attentiveness: cultivate a posture that expects holy interruptions.

Ask, where is Jesus passing by in my ordinary routes, my routine fatigue, my hidden pain? Where compassion meets your reality, possibility awakens.

Let this chapter steady your heart: the initiative of grace means you are not chasing God up a mountain of merit; He is walking your road with mercy. The miracle to come will not be the reward of performance but the overflow of presence.

Your task is not to manufacture moments but to recognize them. When Jesus passes by, pause your self-critique long enough to be seen. Allow the compassion that compels Christ to reinterpret your worth. In that gaze, what felt fixed becomes fluid, what was resigned becomes ready, and what seemed impossible becomes the next sentence in your story.



CHAPTER 2 – It's Not Your Fault

John 9:2–3. The disciples asked who sinned. Jesus answered why God would be glorified. Some struggles exist not as punishment, but as platforms for divine display. Stop blaming yourself for what God intends to use.

Notice the disciples' reflex: explain pain by assigning fault. Jesus refuses the binary. He shifts the frame from culpability to capacity - from what caused this to what God can do through this. In a culture fluent in blame, grace is fluent in purpose. Your hardship is not God's indictment; it may be the stage for His revelation. The question is not denial of brokenness; it is the direction of hope.

When you obsess over causation, shame grows loud and faith grows small. When you seek God's intention, dignity rises and endurance strengthens. Jesus locates meaning not in the man's past but in God's present action. This is not a universal negation of consequence, but a specific refusal to equate all suffering with sin

The pastoral invitation is tenderness toward yourself. Release the internal prosecutor rehearsing what you could have done differently. Trade the courtroom for a sanctuary where God's glory repurposes your story. You are not the sum of others' suspicions nor the echo of your own regrets. You are the canvas of a God who paints with the colors of redemption.

What might it look like to live as if your struggle could become someone else's strengthening? To believe that your healed scar might narrate hope to a watching neighbor? Stop blaming yourself for what God intends to use, and start asking how to partner with His purpose.

The disciples asked for a verdict; Jesus offered a vision. Choose the vision. Let this chapter unshackle your imagination from the manacles of self-accusation and usher you into expectancy: perhaps the place you most resent is the place God most reveals.



CHAPTER 3 – Work While It Is Day

John 9:4. Jesus declared urgency. Obedience is time-sensitive. Delayed obedience often becomes disobedience disguised as caution. Faith requires movement while opportunity remains.

The metaphor of day and night is not just chronology; it is calling. Day represents the window where God's assignment intersects with human availability. Night signals the close of that window. To live wisely is to discern seasons, to say yes before convenience, to trade perfectionism for participation.

We often hide hesitation beneath prudence, baptizing fear as wisdom. Yet Jesus names the hour and moves. Kingdom impact is tied to timely consent. Every calling has a cadence; every opportunity, an expiration. The man in John 9 will soon model this pace, he will go, wash, see. Note the sequence: word received, action taken, result experienced

Many times we invert it, demand result, then consider action, then evaluate the word. Obedience flows forward, not backward. What does it mean for you to work while it is day? It may mean forgiving now before bitterness cements. Starting the conversation while hearts are soft. Serving while the door is open. Praying while the burden is fresh. Building while resources are sufficient. The goal is not frantic busyness but faithful responsiveness. Urgency without anxiety; pace without panic. Let urgency become a friend to your faith, not a foe to your peace.

Consider a simple practice: when you sense a nudge aligned with Scripture and wise counsel, default to yes unless providence prohibits. Allow holy momentum to carry you into small, consistent acts of obedience that compound into transformation.

Faith requires movement while opportunity remains; grace gives power for that movement. You need not fear missing God if you are facing God. He is more committed to guiding you than you are capable of derailing His purpose. Work while it is day, and let today's yes unlock tomorrow's sight.



CHAPTER 4 – God’s Unconventional Methods

John 9:6. Mud and saliva were not aesthetic. They were intentional. God’s methods may offend our preferences, but they fulfill His purposes. Stop asking God to bless you prettily. The means of mercy sometimes look messy. From spit and dust to a cross and a grave, redemption rarely conforms to our sensibilities

The incarnation itself is divine beauty clothed in humble form. In this miracle, Jesus chooses a tactile, earthy act that speaks to creation’s beginning, dust animated by divine breath and signals new creation through an embodied word.

Our discomfort with divine methods often reveals our attachment to control and appearance. We curate lives to seem polished while God crafts lives to become potent. The invitation is to prefer effectiveness over elegance, formation over facade. What if the mud moments, unplanned, unflattering, inconvenient, are the very conduits of clarity? Perhaps the thing you most resist is the instrument God most uses. Stop asking God to bless you prettily and start asking Him to bless you thoroughly, even if the process disturbs your preferences.

The man’s trust did not rest in the method but in the Messiah who used it. Likewise, faith is not in outcomes we script but in the One who authors and finishes our faith. Surrender is agreeing that God can choose the tools; obedience is agreeing to be the canvas. When you find yourself in a method you did not expect, an assignment that feels beneath you, a season that seems messy, remember: Heaven’s wisdom often wears earth’s dust. Yield, and let purpose outrun polish.



CHAPTER 5 – The Sent One and the Place Called Sent

John 9:7. Jesus, the Sent One, sent the man to Siloam, Sent. Obedience aligns us with divine order. Miracles flow where obedience meets instruction. This is not wordplay; it is theology embodied. The mission of Jesus (as the One sent by the Father) multiplies into the commissioning of disciples who are likewise sent. The man becomes a living parable: he receives an imparted word and is routed to a place whose very name confirms his trajectory.

Your calling will often carry its own confirmations, names, nudges, alignments that whisper, you are on the way. Alignment matters because authority flows along lines of assignment. When you stand where God sends, you stand under what God supplies. Siloam is not magic water; it is meaningful obedience. The power is not in geography but in yieldedness.

Sometimes we want Siloam without sending, benefit without belonging, results without relationship. Yet Jesus ties breakthrough to being sent and surrendered. Consider your current season: where is your Siloam? A conversation, a church, a city, a classroom, a company? Go there with a posture to receive and to respond.

Miracles flow where obedience meets instruction because obedience opens capacity, clarifies focus, and demonstrates trust. And trust is the language heaven answers. The man did not ask for alternate directions or a more convenient pool; he followed the vector of the voice that found him. So it is with us: Christ's sending steadies our steps and saturates our path with provision. To be sent is to be sustained.



CHAPTER 6 – Immediate Obedience

John 9:7. The man went immediately. No delay. No debate. No excuses. Obedience positioned him for transformation. You can obey your way into breakthrough. Immediate obedience is not reckless; it is responsive. It honors the God who speaks by acting while faith is fresh.

The speed of his yes did not earn the miracle, but it escorted him into it. Many breakthroughs are missed not for lack of power but for lack of promptness. We negotiate with nudges, overthink invitations, and ask for elaborate assurances while the window narrows. This chapter calls us back to simple, swift compliance with God's word.

Notice that the man moved while still blind. Faith often travels before sight arrives. He navigated the awkwardness of walking to a pool with mud on his face because he valued the voice more than his vanity. Transformation met him in motion. What might immediate obedience look like for you? Sending the apology tonight. Registering for the class this week. Scheduling counseling now. Joining the team this Sunday. Giving generously while the prompting persists. When the command is clear and counsel confirms, accelerate your yes.

Immediate obedience is decisive, not dramatic. It is often quiet, un-Instagrammable, holy. And it is effective. You can obey your way into breakthrough because obedience aligns you with the atmosphere of God's activity. It places you beneath the spout where grace pours. You will not always see fireworks, but you will always find faithfulness. Go, wash, see - let that rhythm become the metronome of your discipleship.



CHAPTER 7 – That’s Who I Used to Be

John 9:8–9. The neighbors questioned his identity. Transformation confuses observers. The man did not deny his past, he testified to his change. Your past does not define your present. The miracle created dissonance in the crowd because old categories could not contain new creation. People who remember your yesterday may struggle to recognize your today; that is not your problem to solve but your testimony to steward.

The healed man models honest acknowledgment: I am the one. He owns his history without being owned by it. This is sanctified self-understanding, memory without misery, biography without bondage. God’s work does not erase your story; it redeems it. Allow your vocabulary to mature with your vision: speak of who you were in a way that magnifies who God is.

When accused of inconsistency, let consistency in obedience become your answer. Transformation is compelling over time; fruit silences speculation. Some will be curious, others cynical; keep walking. Your assignment is not to persuade skeptics but to persist in sight.

Practically, curate practices that reinforce the new you: surround yourself with communities that recognize grace at work, keep rhythms that sustain clarity (Scripture, prayer, accountability), and serve in ways that externalize your internal shift

Remember: your testimony is not a performance but a proclamation. Share what Jesus did, not what you did. The gospel center of this chapter is simple: identity in Christ outlasts the memory of others. Let their questions become occasions for witness, not triggers for withdrawal. Your past has a place, in the museum of mercy, not the prison of shame.



CHAPTER 8 – Proximity Is Not Enough

John 9:10–11. Being near Jesus did not heal the man. Obedience did. Encounters require follow-through. Presence without obedience produces no transformation. In our age, it is possible to be saturated with spiritual content but starved of spiritual change. We can attend services, consume podcasts, memorize quotes, yet remain unaltered because we do not do the thing we heard.

The healed man's story is corrective: proximity introduced the possibility, obedience activated the reality. He was near the Word made flesh, then he obeyed the word spoken to him. The distinction is crucial: inspiration is a spark; implementation is the fire. Some wait for perfect clarity; God often waits for practiced commitment.

We do not earn miracles, but we enact instructions. Obedience is how grace is received in motion. Presence without obedience produces no transformation because transformation is relational cooperation with God's initiative. Consider designing small obedience loops in your life: hear (Scripture), heed (specific action), hold (accountability), and honor (testify). Shorten the distance between conviction and commitment.

The man did not host a symposium on mud; he washed. He did not debate Siloam's efficacy; he went. Learn from him the holy brevity of prompt, plain obedience. For communities, build cultures where doing the word is celebrated as much as knowing the word. Ask each other, what did you do with what you heard? As this chapter closes, let the line settle deep: encounters require follow-through. Let your nearness to Jesus become likeness to Jesus through obedient love.



CONCLUSION – A Call to Honest Obedience

Jesus has already done His part. Now He calls for ours. Immediate obedience is not dramatic, it is decisive. God honors honest hearts that respond when He speaks.

The arc of John 9 brings us here: seen by grace, sent by the Word, shaped by unconventional methods, and transformed in motion. The man's journey - go, wash, see - becomes a template for ours: hear, obey, become.

Honest obedience is not performative rigor; it is relational surrender. It tells the truth about your heart to God and tells the truth about God to your heart. It confesses fear without capitulating to it, names doubt without normalizing disobedience, and chooses trust over tidiness.

Perhaps your next step feels small, even muddy. Take it anyway. Obedience is decisive because it refuses delay and disperses the fog of indecision. It unlocks vistas you cannot access from analysis alone. If grace sees you where you are, obedience moves you toward who you're becoming.

As you respond, expect the questions, endure the confusion, and steward the testimony. Let your life say: I did what He said, and He did what only He can do. In a world hungry for spectacle, embrace the quiet miracle of consistent yeses. This is how legacies are written and communities are renewed.

Jesus has passed by; His word has come; the pool awaits. May you be the one who goes, washes, and sees and then points others to the Sent One who sent you. Amen.