

Minor Characters In Major Roles Lesson 4 – The Blind Man of John 9

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Rom 8:28

“If God is for us, who is against us?”

Rom 8:31b

- Visitors, prayer requests, prayer

Q: How do you react when someone suggests that God may have placed you in such-and-such a situation for a reason?

Acts and Facts

- “After obeying Jesus, many said I looked different—and they were right!”
- “Part of Psalms 146 is about me!”
- “I told the authorities that Jesus was a prophet”
- “After hearing my story, the Jews still didn't believe me, so they called my parents. But in the end they still threw me out”
- “When Jesus heard that I'd been thrown out, he came to me and comforted me with His words”

Q: Close your eyes. What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you feel? Think about what you would miss seeing the most if you were blind.

The Miracle

1. <**Read John 9:1-5**>
2. The players
 - a. Jesus
 - b. His Disciples
 - c. The Blind Man
3. Jesus and disciples walking, see a man blind from birth (how did they know “*from birth?*”)
4. Disciples ask a **typically Jewish** question
 - a. “*Who sinned, the man or his parents?*”
 - b. In other words, “**who should get the blame here?**”
5. Jesus gives a **surprise answer!**
 - a. Neither, “*but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.*” (v.3)
 - b. Note that Jesus was **not bound by the framework of the question!**
 - c. So, there was a **third possibility**, a **Godly** reason for the situation. In other words, “**who should get the glory here?**”

Q: Jesus prefaces the miracle with some teaching in vs. 4-5. What does it mean?

A: Disciples focus: “**How did he get this way?**” (something no one would be expected to do anything about). Jesus’ focus: “**What can we do for him?**”

Here’s the point—Jesus had a **mission** and so do we (“*We...*” in vs. 4)!

6. Jesus gets to work, restoring the man's sight
 - a. <Read John 9:6-7>

Q: Why does John tell us the **Siloam** means **sent**?

A: The pool is a **type of Christ**—go to that which was sent by God and be healed!

- b. Notice in verse 7, the man did **exactly what Jesus said**—no **rationalizing** or **quibbling**
 - c. For contrast <Read 2 Kings 5:9-14> (Naaman—Leper; Captain of King Aram's army)
 - d. Either the blind man was extremely **obedient**, or extremely **desperate**
7. <Read John 9:8-12>
 - a. Blind man returns, neighbors become **divided** over his "condition"
 - b. Some thought this man **wasn't the blind man at all**, others thought it was
 - c. He settles the argument by declaring "***I am the man!***"
 - d. They ask "*how were your eyes opened?*" and he tells the story

Q: **HOW** do you suppose the man appeared different? And **WHY** to some and not to others?

The Investigation

1. <Read John 9:13-17>
 - a. The man is brought to the **Pharisees** (Why? By whom?)
 - b. They question him and he **explains a second time** how he was healed
 - c. They, too, became **divided**
 - i. Not surprising, given the divisive power of Jesus:

"Do not think I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;"

Matthew 10:34-35

- d. When asked about Jesus, the man says "***He is a Prophet.***" In other words, **from God**.
 - e. Quite a **brave** thing to say, given the **current situation** in Jerusalem.
2. <Read John 9:18-23>
 - a. The **parents** are summoned and **asked about his condition**:
 - i. "*Is this your son?*"
 - ii. "*Is he the one you say was born blind?*"
 - iii. "*How is it that now he can see?*"
 - b. (v. 20,21) Parents confirm all the **physical** evidence, but **none of the spiritual!** In fact, they put the **focus** back on the **healed man!**

Q: Comments on their fear of possible excommunication?

3. <Read John 9:24>
 - a. Again the man is called, and told to "***give glory to God***"
 - b. This was a way of saying "**Come on now, tell the truth!**" or "**Ok, come clean with us!**"
 - c. And look at their reason: "**WE know this man is a sinner**"
4. Now here comes the **most important statement** the blind man makes:
 - a. <Read John 9:25>
 - b. He simply told the **facts**—Jesus made him well!

- c. The blind man puts the **focus** back on **Jesus**, where it **belongs!**
 - d. Notice how the blind man is “seeing” many things this day!
 - i. The Pharisee’s **hypocrisy**, their **selfishness**, their **impotence**, their **hatred**
 - ii. Jesus’ **honesty**, His **selflessness**, His **power**, His **love**
 - 5. <Read John 9:26-27>
 - a. **Frustrated**, and not knowing what else to do, they **ask him again** “*How did He open your eyes?*”
 - b. Note their **urgent attention** on the **physical** event (now who’s blind!)
 - c. Look at the **bold response**. He actually **rebukes** the **Pharisees!**
 - 6. <Read John 9:28-29>
 - a. Now the Pharisees pull out the **old standby**—**Moses**.
 - b. They try to argue with **logic** from the **Law**
 - c. But look at the man's **remarkable reply!**
 - d. <Read John 9:30-33>
 - e. He argues with **divine logic!** And this from a **common beggar!**
 - 7. <Read John 9:34>
 - a. In a final fit of **anger and rage**, they **condemn him** and **throw him out of the temple!**
- Q:** Contrast the changes in the healed man with the changes in the Pharisees.
- Healed man grew more **spiritual**; Pharisees grew more **physical**
 - Healed man grew more **bold**; Pharisees grew more **brash**
- b. **Look again at 9:3-5.** That’s the **lesson** for us!

The Meaning of the Incident

1. <Read John 9:35-41>
2. Note the progression of the man’s understanding of Jesus
 - a. “The **man** called Jesus...” (v.12)
 - b. “He is a **prophet**” (v.17)
 - c. “**Lord**” (vv.36, 38)
3. And all this after being **badgered** by his **friends**, **abandoned** by his **parents**, and **excommunicated** by the **Jewish leaders**. Through it all he continued to trust in Jesus!
4. Jesus gives the man **comfort** and **encouragement** (and tells him “*the rest of the story*”)
5. Important point—Jesus **sought out** the man. God doesn’t abandon or ignore His children
6. The fact that the **Pharisees thought they had sight** made their sins purposeful (willful)

Q: What are some ways we fail to “see” Jesus in our midst?

Q: How might we find ourselves in a similar situation as this blind man?

Q: How can we “put the focus” back on the Master where it belongs?

Contrast 9:39 (“*For judgment I came*”) with 3:17 (“*God did not send the Son...to judge*”)
(NB: Jesus wasn’t sent to judge, but judgment comes as a result of His coming, since some accept Him and other reject Him.)

Characteristics of the Blind Man

1. Joyful, Trusting, Loyal, Faithful, Obedient