

WHAT DID JESUS DO FOR YOU?

John 9:18 *But 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.*

John 9:19 *And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?*

John 9:20 *His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:*

John 9:21 *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.*

The blind man in this story was born blind. The Apostles asked the Lord whether the man was born blind due to his own sins or that of his parents. I am glad the Apostles gave expression to our own superstitions and misunderstandings of the acts of God. Obviously, a baby born blind would not have had the opportunity to sin and hence suffer blindness as a punishment for sins. In one sense, we are all born blind because we are all born in sin. As David stated, “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalm 51:5). “Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him” (John 9:3). Let us make a careful note of this: God is looking for opportunities to be glorified in us. Evil and suffering do not exist because they are God’s will but because they are opportunities for God to demonstrate his power to subdue them and liberate us. In other words, we ought not to complain, be bitter or, even worse, blame God for such ills but allow these sufferings to take us to the Lord Jesus.

Luke 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.*

Now the Lord took some mud, spat on it and rolled it into a lump of clay and applied it on the eyes of the blind man. He was demonstrating in this particular mode of acting that he was the same God who made man from the dust, and now heals him with the same dust combined with the issue of his mouth. “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” (Genesis 2:7). Humans are a product of the earth touched by the breath of God. In the beginning God created us but through Jesus he walked the earth repairing, healing and saving that which he made with the breath of his Spirit. “The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life” (Job 33:4). Jesus is God – the only one and true God! His acts confirm his identity which was why he always made a huge stir and

commotion. All he was doing was just being true to himself. God can only behave as God! Herein lies the paradox and dilemma: the problem was that the people he walked among were not prepared to hear that he was God, but they demanded to know why he could do the works that only God could do.

John 9:18 *But 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.*

There are some people around us today who acknowledge that something truly miraculous has happened in our lives. They noticed that we are full of love, are peaceful and are filled with hope. Like the blind man, we no longer are beggars – we are not helpless anymore because Jesus gave us our eyesight back and we can do better things. The Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians of their former lives which Jesus changed. “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (I Corinthians 6:9-11). Had the Jews believed that Jesus was God, they would have had no problem believing that he could change the life of the blind man. No wonder they kept inquiring of the Lord about his identity. “Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning” (John 8:25).

John 9:20 *His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:*

John 9:21 *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.*

There is a testimony for Jesus that only the person healed and saved can give – even parents cannot share this testimony. We must all speak for ourselves! There is a great danger of allowing others to represent what Jesus has done for us. “Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he” (John 9:9). The parents could only confirm two facts: he was their son and that he was born blind. The rest was for the son to declare. They could not see through his eyes – they are not eye doctors to confirm one way or the other. Sadly, even the parents were afraid of excommunication from the Jewish community, so they put all the burden on their son. Similarly, Jesus expects every individual to declare what he has done. Jesus will not permit others to speak for you – only you can glorify the Lord when you open

your mouth. What did Jesus do for you? What did he say to you? How did he save you? What difference did he make in your life? Thank God the blind man was of age – Jesus wisely waited for him to be of age. He spoke for himself and did not abandon the Lord. We are also of age, saints of Jesus – we will not back off and desert the Lord. “Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee” (Mark 5:19). The blind man was only healed by the Lord, he did not really know the Lord. So the Lord returned to reveal his identity.

***John 9:35** Jesus 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?*

***John 9:36** He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?*

***John 9:37** And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.*

***John 9:38** And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

More important than the healing is the revelation of who Jesus is. It is clear that the formerly blind man believed the Lord Jesus was God or he would not have worshipped him. We worship Jesus because he is the one true God of Israel (Deut 6:4) and the universe. Son of God means the flesh and blood of Jehovah himself. The one God has now manifest himself in flesh (John 1:1, 14). This revelation must be believed and confessed. God works many miracles for the flesh so we can live more comfortably on this earth, but the greatest miracle is the salvation of the soul so we can live in heaven for evermore. “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed” (John 6:27). The blind man was not afraid of the Jews who claimed that Jesus was a sinner. He was not intimidated by anyone. “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” (John 9:25). Why will a sinner heal a beggar who was born blind? Jesus did not even wait to boast about this miracle – he just went humbly on his way. It was the Jews who whipped up attention and controversy around the miracle.

We are not going to back off and desert the Lord – let us all stand up straight and declare what the Lord has done for us. Indeed, we are of age: we are mature in the Lord and know his identity, love and compassion. Let us speak for ourselves about Jesus, blessed be his name!