

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

“I ONCE WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE”

Sermon Text - John 9:1-41

INTRODUCTION: I have always been a fan of the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John is unique. There are many stories that only appear in John’s account of the life of Christ. As with other stories found in John’s gospel, the story found in John chapter nine is unmatched. Jesus leaves the temple because the Pharisees were going to stone him (**John 8:59**). After leaving the temple, Jesus nearly ran into this blind man (**John 9:1ff**). The scriptures are unclear as to this blind man’s name, but it does begin by stating that he was born physically blind (v.1) and that his parents were still living (v.18), but other than that little is known about this blind man. Jesus decides to heal the man, but causes some controversy. Today, as we study together, I want us to take an honest look at this story and I want us to consider the questions that were considered on that day that would change this man’s life forever.

DISCUSSION:

I. WHOSE SIN MADE THIS MAN BLIND?

Blindness was looked upon as a form of weakness (**Leviticus 21:18**).
Blindness disqualified animals for sacrifice (**Leviticus 22:22, Deuteronomy 15:21, Malachi 1:8**).
Blindness was inflicted upon sinners (**Genesis 19:11, II Kings 6:18-23, Acts 9:8-9, Acts 13:11**).
Blindness was not an obstacle for Jesus (**Matthew 20:30-34, Mark 10:46-52, Mark 8:22-25**).
Blindness is common in the Old Testament (**Genesis 27:1, 48:10, I Samuel 4:15, I Kings 14:4**).
Blindness was looked upon as a result of sin (**Exodus 20:5, Genesis 3**).

II. DID GOD CREATE THIS MAN TO BE BORN BLIND?

The disciples wanted to know why the man was born blind (**John 9:2**).
Jesus refused to engage them in a theological debate (**John 9:3**).
God deserves the credit for the blindness and the glory for the miracle (**John 9:3**).
Jesus wanted the world to see the Light (**John 9:4-5**).

III. WHY DID JESUS PERFORM THIS MIRACLE ON THE SABBATH DAY?

Jesus violated many oral traditions of the Pharisees
Violation #1 = Kneading on the Sabbath.
Violation #2 = Spitting on the Sabbath.
Violation #3 = Anointing the eyes on the Sabbath.
Violation #4 = Allowing another person to break the Sabbath.
Violation #5 = Traveling a long journey on the Sabbath.
Jesus was more concerned about the blind man than traditions of men.
Ecclesiastes 9:10, Matthew 7:12, James 4:12

CONCLUSION: Jesus went against the norm. He challenged the traditions and doctrines of men. He corrected the teachings of the Jews on original sin and on the passing down of sin from one generation to the next. He tried to teach his disciples that the Jewish traditions were not always scriptural. He challenged the disciples to be open minded and search out the truth. Those things are all important but don’t miss the meaning of the story! Jesus is the “Light of the World.”