

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #159

Jesus is the Light of the Blind

Miracle #27: Jesus Lights a Blind Man's Eyes

JN 9.1-7

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*

4 *"As long as it is day, we must keep on doing the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and anointed the man's eyes.

7 *"I command you to go, and wash yourself in the Pool of Siloam."* (This word means "Sent").

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Streets of Jerusalem
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles
	4. Jesus is the Light of the Blind"
Title	i. Jesus Lights a Blind Man's Eyes

COMMENT:

John continued the theme of Jesus' second "I AM" statement in Chapter Nine. He restated it in 9.5: ***"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*** In Chapter Eight the symbolism of light at the Feast of Tabernacles was central. In Chapter Nine, Jesus demonstrated the meaning of being the light-giver by healing a man born blind.

On one level, it was a physical healing. On another level, it was a spiritual miracle of a man turning from the darkness of sin to the light of salvation in Jesus. The formerly blind man became an example of spiritual sight, and the Pharisees with physical sight were paradigms of spiritual blindness. Because of this, John Chapter 9 contains the richest use of irony in the entire Bible.

This is a good place to remind ourselves that the chapter and verse divisions in our Bibles were not part of the original text. When John wrote his gospel the narrative of Chapter 8.1 to 10.21 flowed together as one connected message, in one context. The chapter/verse divisions that were inserted into the Scripture many hundreds of years

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after the New Testament was written do not serve their purpose when they artificially break up ideas that the authors intended to be together. This particular division is one of the most unfortunate ones in the Bible.

Three things in today's reading show the connection between Chapters Eight and Nine. Verse 9.1 begins: **"As he (Jesus) was going along, he saw a man born blind..."** The verb "going" begs the question: "from where?" We know from 8.58 that Jesus was "going along" after he left the Temple when the Jewish leaders picked up stones to kill him. The events of Chapter Nine originated in Chapter Eight—they were one continuous event, and one inclusive narrative.

Next is the statement, **"I am the light of the world"** that we already referred to. John included this to connect the healing and what happened afterward in Chapter Nine to the content of Chapter Eight. It is one continuing narration.

Finally, Jesus sent the blind man to the pool of Siloam to wash off the mud that Jesus had placed on his eyes. As John pointed out, Siloam meant "sent" in Aramaic. Jesus had been repeating the claim that his Father had "sent" him as the light of the world in 8.16, 18, 26, 29, and 42. Furthermore, it was to that very pool of Siloam that the Priests went each day of the Feast of Tabernacles to draw water and pour it out in the Temple courts. Jesus' choice of the pool of Siloam for the "lighting" of a blind man's eyes linked the content of Chapter Seven to Eight, and Eight to Nine as well.

Chapter Nine shows us Jesus as "the light of the blind" in a living parable of being "the light of the world." We ALL need his light because we are all born spiritually blind, trapped in the darkness of sin. Believing in him as "the Light" is the same thing as making the glorious transition from being blind, to enjoying sight. Jesus is "the light" of a world that is populated by spiritually blind people.

APPLICATION:

Spiritual blindness affects everything we think and do. Wrong behavior is rooted in wrong ideas.

We need to carefully pay attention to what Jesus says, in order to be delivered from our blindness. His light is transmitted through his words.