I Was Blind, Now I See! John. 9:24-41 Rev. Thomas Parrish

Jesus points out that blindness is much more than a physical condition, it is a spiritual reality for all. So how do we permit our commitment to Jesus keep our sight focused whether we get what we pray for or not?

Today's true story from the Bible contain SEVEN LESSONS that give us sight in the midst of so much blindness!

LESSON # 1: JESUS NOTICES EVEN THE LEAST AMONG US

John 9:1:Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. We can have the comfort that Jesus sees us in both the good times and bad times.

LESSON # 2: OUR WEAKNESS SHOULD LEAD US TO JESUS.

The man was blind from his birth. It shows that even in the midst of trials, we can still find the power of Jesus. God didn't promise us a life free of problems, but He ensures us that He will always be with us. Though we might be feeling defeated because of the many challenges that may come our way, we can still have the confidence that Jesus will see us and is with us.

LESSON #3: WE MUST ENDURE HARDSHIPS IN LIFE

The Jews in Jesus's day lived in the illusion that every suffering is caused directly by a sin they commit. While it is true that sin does lead to suffering, illness, and a lot of problems, in some cases, *we also suffer not because of our own doing*.

Jesus is making a great point for you and me: Instead of looking for others to blame, we need to look to Jesus and find out what he wants to do with our problem.

How do you do that? Here is what Jesus says:

Yup, what you have experienced is wrong and painful. I know the level of your pain but give it to me and let me heal you. Give me your bitterness and resentment and let me deal with them. Keep coming to me and I will take your pain and turn it into a blessing for you and for others.

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:2-4).

LESSON NO. 4: WE MUST FOLLOW GOD'S COMMANDMENTS RATHER THAN MAN'S TRADITIONS.

You might be wondering why Jesus has to spit on the ground and make clay to anoint the man's eye?

The Point: Jesus is always the source of healing, not the objects used.

We must continually ask ourselves today: Are our traditions, rules, practices from Jesus or made up by us? The message from Jesus is super plain: choose to keep God's commandments rather than the traditions of men!





LESSON # 5: WE MUST WORK THE WORK OF JESUS-THE SAVIOR WITH A MISSION. He clearly knows His purpose right from the start. He has his priority straight and He will accomplish His goal without any doubt where anyone likes it or not!

Before healing the blind man, Jesus mentioned in verse 4 and 5: "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Jesus has such a great sense of urgency. He understands that our time in the world is limited, and that the world does not want to hear the words of Jesus. If we are to work, it must be today and <u>we must not</u> <u>delay any further</u>. Never forget:

You are the body of Jesus in this world. He wants to speak and exhibit his power through you. He has called you to be his Ambassadors of the Gospel. He has called you to be his minster of reconciliation. If you don't speak and act Jesus' voice will not be heard. WE ARE HIS ONLY PLAN!

LESSON # 6: JESUS WILL HEAL ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

After washing in the pool of Siloam, he *"came back seeing" (John 9:7)*. These three words are packed with so much meaning and profound significance!

<u>But why?</u> Why would Jesus heal others while some are not? "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9). Sometimes, Jesus does not calm the storm in our lives, but rather He Calms His Child While in the Storm.

Jesus did not promise us a life free of worries and troubles. But He did promise us that *He will never leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6).*

LESSON # 7: WE MUST FEAR JESUS RATHER THAN MEN.

So, the Jews called the parents of the blind man and asked, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

Amazingly the parents didn't lie but they were not bold either. The Apostle John gave us the reason why they acted this way in verse 22: His parents said these things because they feared the Jews.

As Christians today, sometimes, doing the right thing could get us in trouble. Sometimes, the paths of righteousness <u>lead us to the valley of the shadow of death</u>. However, our fear should always lead us to trust Jesus rather than trust in ourselves.

In whatever trouble we might find ourselves need to respond like **Shadrack**, **Meshack and Abednego** before King Nebuchadnezzar who was about to burn them alive!

¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, (NEVERTHELESS) be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Daniel 3:17-18

OUR LOYALITY IS TO JESUS WHETHER WE GET WHAT WE ASK FOR OR NOT! Today the Bible gave us seven directives in order to always have our focus on Jesus so that we always see Jesus in both the good and bad of life. Knowing and serving Jesus is our only real goal.