

# Jesus Passed By

John 9:1-5, 33-39



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**FOCAL Read Responsively** John 9:1-5, 33-39 <sup>KJV</sup> And as [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man which was blind from [his] birth. (2) And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? (3) **Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.** (4) I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. (5) **As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.** (33) **If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.** (34) They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. (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? (36) **He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?** (37) **And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.** (38) And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshiped him. (39) **And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.**

**Prayer** Precious Savior, we live in a day where truth is not fixed, but relative to how one feels. We live in an age where every person does what is right in their own sight. Dear Lord, please return us as a nation from whence we have fallen. We beg You, as Moses did of old, redeem this nation, redeem this people. Dear God, please bring reform into Your Church, and rebuild that which we have done with Thy own nail scarred hands. Bind this Church together in unity, in love, and in the power of

Your Holy Spirit. Awaken those who sleep, and glorify Thy Name in us. In Christ's Name we ask these things - Amen!

## 1. This Man Was Born Blind, All People Are Born Blind

**FOCAL** John 9:1 <sup>KJV</sup> And **as [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man which was blind from [his] birth.**

We might be tempted to read over this statement, but the *irony* of it *demand*s that we pay attention to it. We know that **Jesus passed by** this man because our Lord was *leaving* the Temple of God and the religiously blind people who were seeking to kill Him. The Bible says:

John 8:59 <sup>KJV</sup> Then took **they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself,** and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

These people had seen the testimony of our Lord. They had heard the Gospel of salvation preached. They had heard Jesus Christ even testify that He *is Almighty God*, for our Lord said:

John 8:58 <sup>KJV</sup> Jesus said ... **Before Abraham was, I am.**

Jesus took the *eternal Name of God*, I AM, and applied it to His Precious Self. Our Lord emphasized that He was, is, and will always be Almighty God, come to walk and

live among us. The Jews - the religious crowd that should have known better - saw Jesus' testimony and rejected it. So Jesus **hid Himself from them** and, leaving these **blind leaders of the blind** (**Matthew 15:14**), He came upon this blind man. The religious leaders were *spiritually blind*, unable to see Jesus Christ because their perception of the Law, like the sun on the horizon, destroyed their sight. They were *not* followers of God's Law, but they were followers of *their own law*. They could not see Jesus because of their own sin hardened hearts.

Jesus left the blind Pharisees and came to a blind man. Jesus could not help the first set of blind men, but He could help this man, even though he was **blind from birth**. The disciples next asks Jesus a very fair question. They said:

**FOCAL** John 9:2 <sup>KJV</sup> And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, **who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?**

These Jews understood the *Biblical truth* that sickness and disease is often caused by *sin*, by *disobedience to God*.

The Bible teaches that sin hurts *either* Christian or non-Christian. The Christian is saved *out of self and into Christ, then from Christ into Heaven*. Because of this the Christian is commanded to be more careful of sin than the unbeliever is. This is why the Apostle warned the Corinthian Church, when it began to *dishonor the Lord's*

Table, that they were bringing sickness on themselves.  
We read:

**1 Corinthians 11:29-30** <sup>KJV</sup> For **he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. {30} For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. {or die}**

The unbeliever is a slave to sin, whereas the believer has some manner of control over the sin nature because he is alive in Christ. Adam brought sin and its subsequent death into the world:

**Romans 5:12** <sup>KJV</sup> Wherefore, as by one man **sin entered into the world, and death by sin;** and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Beloved, sin is anything that offends God, and God is the Giver of Life. God warned Israel in **Deuteronomy 28:58-61** that *their failure to love Him would bring disease in their lives*. God's exact words were that He would bring "**every sickness, and every plague**" on those who were disobedient. The remedy for sin in the life of the Christian is *confession* of that sin to God, and the loving help of your local Church. Sins in the lives of God's people are supposed to be gently corrected, as the Apostle states in:

**James 5:16** <sup>KJV</sup> **Confess [your] faults<sup>1</sup> one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.** The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Sin causes sickness! The difference between *getting better* and *getting more sickly* is whether a person *admits their sin to God* so that God can forgive it. Until it's brought to Jesus, it can't get any better!

Anyone who loves you will warn you of sin's consequences. It is not love to see sin - any action *defined by Scripture as sin* - then to look the other way. The Bible says:

**James 1:14-15** <sup>KJV</sup> ... every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. {15} Then when **lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**

We are all subject to that misstep of sin. In love we are to gently correct one another when sin appears in the assembly of the Saints. Once sin is confessed before God we see that:

**Psalms 107:19** <sup>KJV</sup> [those who] **cry unto the**

1 G3900 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), *παράπτωμα*, *paraptōma*, *par-ap'-to-mah*, From G3895; a *side slip (lapse or deviation)*, that is, (unintentional) *error* or (wilful) *transgression*: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.

## LORD in their trouble, [and] he saveth them out of their distresses.

In **Numbers Chapter 12** Miriam, Moses' sister, sinned in God's eyes. God caused *leprosy*, a terrible skin disease, to come and stay on Miriam for *three days*<sup>2</sup> as punishment for her sin. We are told in **Ephesians 6:2** that those who obey God's Commandment to "*honor your parents*" live *extended lives*<sup>3</sup>. The flip side to this is that those who *do not* honor their parents *do not* live

2 Numbers 12:1-14 <sup>KJV</sup> And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. {2} And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard [it]. {3} (Now the man Moses [was] very meek, above all the men which [were] upon the face of the earth.) {4} And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. {5} And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood [in] the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. {6} And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, [I] the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, [and] will speak unto him in a dream. {7} My servant Moses [is] not so, who [is] faithful in all mine house. {8} With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? {9} And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. {10} And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam [became] leprous, [white] as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, [she was] leprous. {11} And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. {12} Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. {13} And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. {14} And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in [again].

3 Ephesians 6:2-3 <sup>KJV</sup> Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) {3} That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

long lives! In **Daniel 4:25** God sent the disease called *boanthropy* on Nebuchadnezzar, which caused him to eat grass like an ox for *seven years*<sup>4</sup>. God often sends sickness to us to cause our eyes to look on Him. When the disciples asked **who sinned**, they were asking a fair question. Sin brings sickness, and God sometimes sends sickness *because of our sin*. The disciples said:

**FOCAL** John 9:2 <sup>KJV</sup> ... **who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?**

God *never* punishes the believer *because of the unbeliever's sin*. However, sin does often *afflict* the innocent.

The drug abuser, if pregnant, will deliver a drug addicted baby. The mother of the child, if she has been involved in sexual promiscuity, or if her *mate* has been involved in sexual promiscuity, will generally pass the effects of her sin on to her children. If the mother has AIDS or HIV, the child will generally be born with AIDS or HIV. When the nation Israel sinned, innocent Daniel was taken into captivity alongside of the offenders. Because of his brothers' sin Joseph was sold into slavery and imprisoned. Sin often causes suffering in the innocent.

The Christian realizes that he needs Christ ten times as much as he did *before he was saved*. This is because we now recognize the danger of sin, and what it can do to this frail human frame.

4 According to Gill, Wesley, and others.

## Sickness Not Always A Result Of Personal Sin

To suppose that *every sickness* or *every tragedy* is the result of personal sin in one's life is to ignore the "full council of God"<sup>5</sup>.

We need only look at the account of Job to see that suffering sometimes occurs *because God allows it for His glory*. On a more personal level, there are many *tiny tombstones* in the graveyard of Rock Hill Baptist Church that represent the death of infants.

What sin did these infants commit? None whatsoever! So we must concur with Jesus that there *are times* when disease is not related to sin. Jesus told His disciples,

**FOCAL** John 9:3 <sup>KJV</sup> ... **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

There are times when God allows sickness in His creation so that **the works of God through Christ should be made manifest**. This man was blind, not because of sin, but for the *glory of God*. God is going to heal this man so that God can be revealed in Christ. God is going to heal this man so that God can be glorified.

Though the disciples asked a fair question, their question is typical of our own lives. We spend so much time

<sup>5</sup> Acts 20:27 <sup>KJV</sup> For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

*analyzing* why something is the way that it is, rather than going to God and saying "Help!". This man was blind, and as a blind person was totally unable to either help himself or help those in the world around him. This man spent his days *begging for money* or being *cared for by someone*. He couldn't get a job in the Jerusalem Marketplace, because he walked in a state of perpetual darkness.

Those who do not belong to Jesus Christ, who have not believed on Him for salvation,

**Ephesians 4:18 <sup>KJV</sup> [Have their] understanding darkened ... because of the blindness of their heart**

Those who have not accepted Jesus as Savior are in a state of *spiritual blindness* every bit as sure as this young man's *physical blindness*. Furthermore, those in *spiritual blindness* cannot see the works of God, neither can they do them. This young man was born *physically blind*, the unbeliever is born *spiritually blind*. Unless God come and heal the blindness the unbeliever is blind still. Unless the Lord Jesus brings that *free gift of salvation*, the lost remain blind, stumbling around this life in his or her sin.

## 2. Only Jesus Can Heal All Who Are Blind

**FOCAL** John 9:4-7 <sup>KJV</sup> **I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. {5} As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. {6} When he had thus**

spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, {7} And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Only Jesus can heal the blind! The *neighbors* (John 9:8) of this young man were perplexed. How is it possible that this man, **blind from birth**, could now see? The *religious leaders*, the Pharisees, were puzzled (John 9:15) as to how this man could be saved. The *Law the Pharisees taught* was more of a hindrance than a help to the blind man (John 9:16). They began to debate among themselves,

**FOCAL** John 9:16 <sup>KJV</sup> .... This man is **not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day.** Others said, **How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?** And there was a division among them.

**Illustrate** The neighbors could not save this man, the Pharisees and the Law could not save this man, *nor could this man save himself*. We have all seen the most *grievous sins* come from those who believe in *works based salvation*. Those who believe that they can do something to *earn or deserve their salvation* always come to God with their own solution tightly clasped in their hands. While our hands are filled with our own solutions, all we do is get in God's way. We cannot add nor subtract to the salvation made by the Blood of Christ. We who are His should glorify the name of Jesus every

time we open our mouths. That salvation that was provided to us the day that we accepted Jesus Christ into our lives is eternal and unchangeable. C.H. Spurgeon wrote:

**"The Lord is going to do far more for you. He has taken off some of the coarsest surface but He will polish you yet to an exceeding beauty.... O my brothers and sisters, you are only in the egg yet. You have chipped a little bit of it [and like the chick] and you have looked out. But the most you have seen is your own shell. Know you not that you have wings? Yes, wings which you could not stretch as of yet, for they are bound down by the shell. But you shall spread them soon and mount aloft into that clear blue where eagles are at home. You shall rise above all visible things and reach the serene abode of the blessed."**<sup>6</sup>

We cannot earn our salvation, not even one bit. We often find that the teaching of salvation is the *simplest* and, at the same time, the most *difficult* thing in all of this world. People have the mistaken idea that, if it cost *us* nothing, then it is worth nothing. The *coin* that purchased our salvation is not our works, but the works of Christ. Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 9:4-5 <sup>KJV</sup> **I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. (5) As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**

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6 C.H. Spurgeon, *The Whole-Heartedness Of God In Blessing His People*

Jesus said **I am the Light of the world**. Have you ever looked at the **I Am** statements our Lord made? These are *exclusive statements* that emphasize He is the only Way to salvation. Jesus said:

John 5:43 <sup>KJV</sup> **I am** come in my Father's name ...

John 6:35 <sup>KJV</sup> .. **I am** the bread of life

John 7:29 <sup>KJV</sup> .. **I am** from him, and he hath sent me.

John 8:12 <sup>KJV</sup> .. **I am** the light of the world..

John 8:23 <sup>KJV</sup> .. **I am** from above ... I am not of this world.

John 8:24 <sup>KJV</sup> .. if ye believe not that **I am** [he], ye shall die in your sins.

John 8:58 <sup>KJV</sup> ... Before Abraham was, **I am**.

John 9:39 <sup>KJV</sup> .. For judgment **I am** come into this world, that they which see not might see...

John 10:7 <sup>KJV</sup> ... **I am** the door of the sheep.

John 10:10 <sup>KJV</sup> ... **I am** come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

John 10:11 <sup>KJV</sup> **I am** the good shepherd .. [Who] .. giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:36 <sup>KJV</sup> ... **I am** the Son of God?

John 11:25 <sup>KJV</sup> ... **I am** the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live ..

If you are saved, then the **Great I AM** is at work in your life. Jesus made it very clear that *no one* earns their way to God. Jesus Christ - faith in His atoning sacrifice - is the only way to be saved.

**Illustrate** He is the *only Way, only Truth, only Life*. Our greatest efforts will do nothing to save us, but His *least efforts* secure eternal salvation for all who believe. We can work our whole lives, do our good deeds, donate our money, dress in our finery and attend Church or Synagogue faithfully, and still end up in eternal hellfire. The lightest touch of Jesus, however - a little spittle and clay, and the soul that was blind from birth can now see and serve God.

In the account of the blind man healed we see how God worked in his life. Jesus went to the man unbidden and blessed him, just as our Lord has been to all of you and blessed you (whether you know it or not). You woke up today, rose from your bed, ate breakfast, and drove to Church in your own vehicle. There are countries today where people wake up to go to the local garbage dump and scrounge for food. God has blessed you. The sun shines on you. You may move slower as you age, but you move. You breath, you go where you will. The Great I AM has come to you many times and blessed you and, like this man outside the Temple, you *haven't even thanked Him*. Jesus took and made mud, put it in this man's eyes, and then told him:

**FOCAL** John 9:7 <sup>KJV</sup> ... **Go, wash in the pool of Siloam,** (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

This person isn't even a believer yet. You can tell it by his words. When people asked him about Jesus, he responded that the One who healed him was...

**FOCAL** John 9:11 <sup>KJV</sup> ... A **man** that is called **Jesus** ..

Jesus has given you grace to live, but He wants to give you Grace for Eternal Life. He prays that you will turn to God and realize that "**the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance**" (Romans 2:4).

He has given you much. This young man was given sight, but it was not until he thought about what Christ gave him that he simply told the Pharisees:

**FOCAL** John 9:25 <sup>KJV</sup> ... **one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.**

Like the light at the end of a tunnel, the young man slowly begins to *mentally see* what Christ *physically* did to his vision. How could someone *blind from birth* be healed unless God heal him? When the Pharisees begin to say that Jesus was a mere man, or someone possessed by a demon, the young man says:

**FOCAL** John 9:33 <sup>KJV</sup> **If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.**

He has literally seen the blessing of God in Christ. Jesus now comes to this young man, just as He comes to every Christian, and asks *do you believe on the Son of God?* Look at this exchange:

**FOCAL** John 9:35-38 <sup>KJV</sup> 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?** (36) He answered and said, **Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?** (37) And Jesus said unto him, **Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.** (38) And **he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshiped him.**

Again I quote C.H. Spurgeon:

"The character of a man hinges on his relationship to God. You may know what manner of man he is, and what are his communications, if you find out how he stands towards God. With many, God is a mere name - a word to be pronounced more or less reverently. **But nothing more. He is not a Force operating upon their daily lives. His glory is no motive of action, no object of desire, no joy of their heart. "God is not in all their thoughts". And in consequence their lives are not conformed to His holy Law. Blessed be the Most High, there are a few to whom God is everything - the First and the Last - the Center and Circumference of**

**their being."**

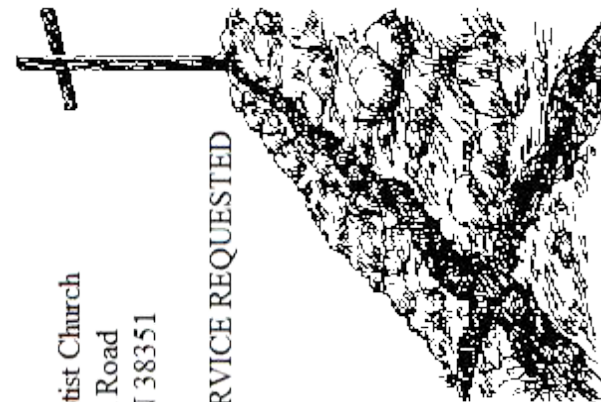
Once this man believed on Jesus he did the one thing that *only a believer can do* - he **worshiped Him Who is worthy of worship**. The Christian *worships the Lord Jesus*. The Bible says:

**Psalms 95:6<sup>KJV</sup> O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

He stands up for his Savior. The believer will stand up for Jesus, *even* if it means that he will be ostracized from both family and friends. The believer will do as Jesus says, *when* Jesus says, because Jesus *is Lord*. The believer will *testify* to others about how Jesus saved him.

If you know Jesus Christ as Savior, then you *know* He expects your loving obedience. The Master has saved you to lead you to better things, not to lesser things. He does not save His sheep then bid them eat of the thorns of the field. Those He saves He leads toward righteousness, toward justice, toward honesty, toward Christian duty, toward worship, and toward that final inheritance we will all one day receive in yonder Heaven. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

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