

That You May Believe – The Gospel of John
Lesson Six – John 9-10

Chapter 9:

- I Jesus heals a man who was born blind.
- A. This man had never seen anything before in his life. Jesus brings light where before there was only darkness.
 - B. The disciples question Jesus about the man.
 1. The Jewish rabbi's taught that all suffering was a direct result of sin.
 - a. Some said birth defects were the result of the baby's sin in the womb.
 - b. Others taught they were punishments inherited because of their parent's sin.
 2. The disciples were asking Jesus his view on this argument.
 - C. Jesus answers their question.
 1. Jesus does not take sides in such a pointless argument.
 2. "Neither... sinned" – That is not to say they are sinless but rather that their sin had nothing to do with the man's blindness.
 - a. Sometimes sin results in suffering.
 - b. Sometimes suffering is a natural part of the world we live in.
 - c. All suffering causes us to rely on God.
 3. Jesus next statement could be interpreted two ways in the original language:
 - a. "He is suffering so that God's power may be displayed in his life."
 - b. "So that God's power may be displayed in his life, we must do God's work."
 - c. Either way, Jesus is turning the disciples' focus away from the debate and toward the blind man's need.
 - D. Jesus heals the man.
 1. Notice Jesus heals him without being asked, but expects the man to respond in faith.
 - a. Jesus spat and made mud.
 - i. This shows Jesus' humanity.
 - ii. It brings to mind God's making of Adam in the Garden of Eden.
 - b. The pool of Siloam was used as a place of purification.
 2. This is similar to what Jesus did for us.

The man born blind	Us
Jesus took the initiative	No one asked Jesus to die for us
The man came in contact with Jesus	Jesus' blood is what saves us
Jesus commanded a simple act of obedience – go and wash	Jesus commands a simple act of obedience - baptism

3. Prophecy foretold that the Messiah would give sight to the blind.
 - a. No other prophets did this.
 - b. This was a work reserved only for the Messiah.
 - c. Imagine what it would be like to see for the first time.

II This healing like many of Jesus others healings brings controversy.

A. His neighbors react.

1. Even though they have seen all their lives, some are blinded to the miracle.
2. The man gives them his testimony, "I am the man."
 - a. "The man they call Jesus healed me."
 - b. Personal testimony is a powerful tool in telling others about Jesus.

B. The man gives his testimony to the Pharisees. *Does he ever get tired of telling?*

1. Again the miracle happened on the Sabbath so the Pharisees are divided.
 - a. Some were again blinded to the miracle because of their focus on the Law.
 - b. Others were beginning to wonder how a sinner could do such things.
 - c. The healed man says Jesus is a prophet – this simply means a man from God.
2. The Pharisees question the man's parents.
 - a. They confirm that he is their son and was born blind, but do not back up their son's story of how he was healed.
 - b. They say, "He is of age, ask him"
 - i. Legal age was thirteen.
 - ii. They are afraid of the Pharisees so they let their son speak for himself.
3. Again the man is questioned
 - a. "Give glory to God." – This is an oath much like we say, "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."
 - b. "We know this man is a sinner." – They take a stand on their preconceived ideas, The blind man takes a stand on what he knows.
 - c. "Do you want to become his disciples, too?" – two purposes:
 - i. He mocks them.
 - ii. Declares himself to be a disciple of Jesus.
 - d. "Now that is remarkable." – The Pharisees stubbornness in not believing is more remarkable than his healing.
 - e. "You were steeped in sin!" – Irony again. If the man's blindness were a result of sin, how does he stand before them seeing?"
4. They expel the man from the temple. He is officially excommunicated.

C. The man finally sees Jesus and believes in him.

1. Though he was now officially rejected by the religious community, Christ was there to meet him.
2. The man may not have realized that Jesus was the one speaking to him, so he asks who the Son of Man is.
3. Jesus talks about spiritual blindness.
 - a. Jesus tells the Pharisees that their problem is not that so much they are blind as that they claim that they can see.
 - b. They are the blind leading the blind.
 - c. It's no wonder they keep bumping into their own stupidity.

Chapter 10:

I Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the Gate.

A. Jesus contrasts the good shepherd and the thief.

The Shepherd	The Thief
Enters the gate – the watchman knows him	Enters by another way – sneaks in
The sheep recognize his voice	The sheep do not recognize him
He calls the sheep by name and they follow	The sheep run away from him
He protects life and gives life	He comes to take life away.
Lives and dies for the good of the sheep	Thinks the sheep exist only for his benefit

B. A little background on shepherds and sheep in the New Testament.

1. A shepherd was a common metaphor for a leader of God's people.
2. In town, sheep from many flocks were often kept for the night in a common sheepfold. A "watchman" regulated which shepherds brought and took which sheep.
3. Each shepherd had a distinctive call that only his sheep would know.
4. In the field the shepherd had another sheep pen, which only had one entrance. The shepherd would lie across the entrance to keep the sheep in and predators out.

C. Jesus is both the shepherd and the gate

1. He calls his sheep out of the common fold of Judaism.
2. He lays down his life to protect us like the shepherd in the field.

D. Who is the thief and the robber?

1. The Pharisees have show that they are ungodly leaders who are only concerned for themselves.
2. Satan is bent on destroying us.

E. Jesus has other sheep who are not a part of the same sheep pen.

1. These are Gentile (non Jewish) believers. John 3:16 – God love the whole world.
2. There is one flock, but Jesus calls his followers from all nations and races.

F. Jesus claims power over life and death.

1. It was his choice to lay down his life. His sacrifice was part of the plan.
2. Anyone can lay down his life. Only Jesus has the right and the ability to take it up again.

G. Again the Jews are divided over who Jesus is.

1. Some call him crazy or demon possessed.
2. Others realize that he does not talk or act like a crazy person. Therefore his claims must be true.

II Jesus comes to Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication

A. This feast began during the period between the Testaments.

1. The Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes conquered Israel and for three years set up a statue of Zeus in the temple.
2. Judas Maccabeus in 165 B.C. led a revolt that won the Israelites freedom. He then cleansed and rededicated the Temple to God's service.
3. Like a 4th of July celebration – National pride ran high at this time.
4. Today this feast is known as Hanukah

- B. The Jews press Jesus for an answer about whether he is the Christ.
1. Perhaps they wanted an excuse to arrest him.
 2. Jesus says that his miracles speak louder than his words.
 3. The reason they do not believe is because they are not his sheep. They refuse to listen to his voice.
- C. Jesus declares unity with the Father – “I and the Father are one.”
1. Jesus is again making a clear claim to actually be God.
 2. The Jews recognize this as blasphemy and again try to stone Jesus.
 3. Jesus again points to his miracles as proof of his claim – “For which of these do you stone me?”
 4. Jesus reasons with them on the basis of Scripture.
 - a. The Judges were called Gods in the Old Testament (Psalm 82).
 - b. Jesus’ point: If these imperfect Judges were called gods, why could Jesus not be called the Son of God on the basis of his miracles?
 - c. Just like the temple was dedicated to God. Jesus was “set apart” (same as the word for dedicated) for God’s service.
 - d. Jesus, the king of “hide and seek” alludes their grasp.
- D. Jesus goes back across the Jordan to where John had baptized.
1. He leaves Jerusalem where the people rejected him and refused to believe.
 2. He goes back to a place where the people had accepted him before.
 3. Jesus following continues to grow.