

Series: John

Title: The Works of God Manifest

Text: John 9: 1-

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**John 9: 1: 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. 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.**

This text begins in John 9: 1 with the conjunction “And.” The placement of each passage by the Spirit of God is on purpose. What had just happened? Look back to chapter 8: 58.

**John 8: 58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM.**

Christ is the great I AM—the very present, eternally existent God.

Exodus 3: 14: God [Christ in the burning bush] said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM:

Revelation 1:8: I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

John 6: 35:...I AM...the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger

John 10: 7:...I AM the door of the sheep....9...by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...

John 10: 11: I AM the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep

John 14: 6: Jesus saith unto him, I AM the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me

The Lord Jesus had just told the Pharisee's,

John 8: 12: I AM the light of the world;...24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I AM, ye shall die in your sins

Then again Christ declared himself to be the great I AM who was before Abraham.

**John 8: 58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM. 59: 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. John 9: 1: And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.**

Christ passed by in two very different ways here. One, Christ passed by those who claimed they could see, leaving them in their blindness. But as the Lord passed by he saw one of his elect, blind from birth, who he gave spiritual sight to believe and worship the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus was not frustrated by those who claimed they could see and rejected him. Nor was he frustrated by this man who was blind from birth. Our Lord was working the will of the Father in both.

John 9: 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.

In John 9: 3 the Lord Jesus declares that this blind man was born blind *“that the works of God should be made manifest in him.”*

**Proposition:** This great miracle of giving this blind man sight manifests the works of God our Savior in saving his elect people from our sins.

## **SALVATION BEGINS WITH GOD**

**John 9: 1: And as *Jesus* passed by, HE SAW a man which was blind from his birth**

The Lord Jesus passed by this man on purpose. Christ passed by him because all who God chose in Christ, God “predestinated...unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the Beloved!” Those God elected to save in Christ by God’s free and sovereign grace were, of God, “predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the council of his own will.” (Eph 1: 5-6, 11)

God’s elect are described as a baby cast out into an open field and left for dead, polluted in our own blood. God said, “And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live.” (Eze 16:6)

The Lord Jesus passed by this man. The Lord Jesus saw this man. The man did not see Christ and could not see Christ. The man was blind from *his* birth. This is the nature of every sinner who Christ saves. We come into this world spiritually “blind from birth.” We come into this world dead in sins due to Adam’s transgression and our first birth by him.

By nature we are blind to true knowledge of holy God; blind to our own sin and ignorance; blind to the debt we owe to God's holy justice; blind to the truth that Christ is the Righteousness of God which God provided for his people.

But Christ passed by and saw this and *in mercy and grace Christ stopped to give him sight, spiritual sight, faith in Christ!* We who love him, it is because he first loved us. All who believe on him, it is because he first chose us. He first passed by us. He first saw us in mercy, love and grace. Salvation begins with God.

## **THAT THE WORKS OF GOD BE MADE MANIFEST**

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

There is a lesson in the disciple's question and the Lord's answer. Here is a man in dire need; a man unable to provide for himself; a man in need of mercy and help. But the disciples only thought of talking over this theologically. What is the cause? Who sinned? They supposed the man or his parents had sinned because of the man's blindness. Christ addressed this evil surmising in Luke's gospel.

Luke 13: 1: There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2: And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? 3: I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4: Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5: I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

**John 9: 3: Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

There is a great lesson in the Lord's answer. The Lord is not suggesting that neither the man nor his parents had sinned. The man had sinned before he was born. How can that be? Even as we all sinned in Adam and died under the curse of the law; even as we all are conceived in sin, spiritually depraved and come forth blind sinners. Both the son and the parents had sinned themselves as we have. In affliction given by God to a believer there is always sin to be repented of. Believers have sin to be repented of daily.

But we do not know a man's state before God by providence. All afflictions are not chastisements for sin. Some are sent to refine; some are sent to teach us Christ is our only Strength. But all are sent in love to God's child—"Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Heb 12: 6).

But our Lord is declaring God is the first cause. This is what should be preeminent in our hearts when we encounter sinners or brethren suffer afflictions. God did not merely permit sin to enter and death by sin, God purposed it that the works of God should be made manifest in Christ working the works to save his depraved people from our sins. God did not merely permit this man to be born blind, God purposed it that the works of God might be made manifest in Christ saving him from his sins.

Even every affliction that God's believing children suffer in God's providence is by God's purpose to manifest Christ's works in saving us. It is to turn us to him. That is what Christ teaches us through affliction.

2 Corinthians 4:17: For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; 18: While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

**John 9: 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.**

While the disciples were only looking on this man as a sinner and debating the cause, Christ declared the purpose. "I MUST work the works him that sent me, while it is day!" Christ had to accomplish the works of God because only he could obey the law and justify his people and declare God just!

Our Lord declared the urgency in his work. His time on earth was short. He must redeem the time. He must work the works of God while it was day while he was on this earth. “Night” represents death or the time when no man can work. The point our Lord makes is that not only should our preeminent thought be that this affliction is so the works of God might be made manifest but that the urgent need is healing, compassion, love—to speak the gospel through which the Lord heals his blind children.

Christ is the Light of the world. When Christ is made of God unto his people, Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption that is when the Light of Christ has shined into our hearts. That is when we have sight. That is when we behold Christ is All in our salvation. The Father sent Christ to accomplish the works of salvation and he finished the work!

Consider Christ’s faithfulness to finish the work of God and save his people in his dealings with this blind man at this time. The self-righteous were pursuing him with stones to kill him. But it did not matter to our Lord. He stopped because there was one of his poor blind elect, who He must save. It mattered not that it was the Sabbath and the Jews would be offended. He said, *“I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day.”*

The Lord Jesus Christ looked at this poor blind beggar with a different heart than his disciples. He even looked at his disciples, in their error, with the same heart. Christ looked upon them with a pure, holy heart of love to work his Father’s will; a heart of compassion for his helpless sinful people; a heart to save his elect who he alone must and can save.

Let us learn this lesson. When we have opportunity to speak with dead sinners or when brethren suffer a terrible fall, our first thought should be to remember, God is the first cause: this is to manifest Christ’s works in saving as only he can. Our second thought should be to help the helpless with the word of Christ’s accomplished work of redemption and free forgiveness of sins.

## **BEHOLD THE WORK OF GOD**

**John 9: 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, : And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.)

*“When he had thus spoken”*—Christ preaches the gospel. The whole of this account is to show that Christ heals through the word of the gospel which he speaks. This man is sent to the waters of Shiloah or Siloam. That is where Isaiah declared the gospel of Christ to Ahaz. When Ahaz rejected Christ he rejected the gospel, *“the waters of Shiloah that go softly”* (Is 8: 6) Christ must speak the gospel into the heart. Christ anoints us by the Spirit to behold what he has done for his people.

*“He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle”*—God made man of the dust of the earth. The Son of God united himself with human flesh in Christ’s incarnation. This ointment Christ made of his spit and the dust of the ground typifies Christ himself who is the Balm of Gilead who cures his sinful people of all our sins.

*“He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay”*—Christ applies himself to his blind child making us one with him and he with us to behold what he has done for us. Christ gave efficacy to this means he used the same as he makes the gospel effectual. Without Christ making the means effectual it would have only blinded the man more. So it is with the

gospel, without Christ making us see the gospel, the gospel only blinds men more. But this too is on purpose (2 Cor 2: 15).

*“Go wash in the pool of Siloam (which by interpretation is Sent”*—this pool was made by an engineering marvel by Hezekiah; he made a conduit which Sent water down from a mountain into this pool. Christ is the marvel of marvels—Christ was Sent of God. The marvel of marvels is that “He hath made him sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21). Through his finished work, Christ SENDS the Word and the Spirit, the Water of Life, into our hearts washing us and giving us sight to behold Christ who purged all the sins of his people.

Ephesians 5: 25:...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Titus 3:5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

*“He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.”*—Christ’s power makes his people willing to wash in Christ by faith. Had the man not obeyed and plunged into that fountain he would have remained blind. We must believe on Christ. But when Christ speaks in power the grace of God is irresistible. The blind man *“went Christ’s Way therefore.”* Christ became the blind’s man way.

If Christ has worked this in any for the first time or if a believer is suffering affliction, hear the word of Christ. For his people it is that Christ and his works be manifest. This gospel is the healing power when Christ speaks into the heart. Looking to Christ alone, plunging in that fountain, we find all salvation in him alone! Hear the word of our Lord.

Revelation 3: 18: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Christ and his Righteousness is the gold, the white raiment, the eyesalve that makes his child see. Go wash in Christ by casting all your care on him and you will come away seeing that all your sins are washed away. Believers never cease plunging into this sin-cleansing fountain by faith, Christ Jesus.

Zechariah 13: 1: In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

**Amen!**