

***“A True Work Of God”***  
***John 9:8-16***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
  - To John 9 This Morning:
    - Where - Last Sunday:
      - We Were Introduced In 9:1:
        - To - “A Man Which Was Blind From His Birth!”
  - And - The Very Reason:
    - For His Blindness:
      - Was So That - One Day:
        - The Lord Jesus Christ:
          - Would Meet Him - And:
            - “The Works Of God” Would “Be Made Manifest In Him!” (9:3)
  - And So - Jesus Healed The Man:
    - So That He Could:
      - See With His Eyes:
        - For The Very First Time!
    - But - As *We* Will See Today:
      - There Is Still Much More:
        - To His Story! Because:
          - Jesus Was Not Done:
            - Working His Fathers Works In That Man!
2. And So - As We Begin:
  - I Would Like For Us To Read:
    - The Account Of The Man's Healing Once Again:
      - And Then Add To It:
        - The Verses Through 9:16!
          - Read Passage! 9:1-16!
  - The Miracle That Jesus Performed:
    - On That Day - To That Man:
      - Was A True Work Of God!
    - And - As We Just Read:
      - There Can & Most Likely Will:
        - Be Different Reactions:
          - To A True Work Of God!
    - But - No Matter What:
      - The True Work Of God:
        - Can Never Be Denied!
      - And - This Is The Kind Of Work:
        - That We Will See This Morning!
          - And - This Is Still - The Kind Of Work:
            - That We So Desperately Need This Morning!
    - A True Work Of God!
      - And So - As We Just Read From:
        - 9:8-12 - A True Work Of God:
1. ***May Bring About Disbelief!***
  - Just Like The Disbelief:
    - Of Those Who Might Have Known The Blind Man:
      - The Best - Even:
        - 9:8 - His Own “Neighbors” And “They Which Before Had Seen Him That He Was Blind!” - Two Groups Of People:
          - Who Noticed A Change & A Difference In The Man!
    - The First Group - The Neighbors:
      - Were Those Who Were Closest Him:
        - And - Would Have Recognized Him:

- The Most!
- These Neighbors:
  - May Have Been:
    - The Neighbors Of His Family - And So:
      - Would Have Seen Him As He Grew Up, Struggling With His Disability Of Blindness!
    - Perhaps Even Wondering:
      - As Jesus' Disciples Did:
        - 9:2 - "Who Did Sin, This Man / Boy, Or His Parents, That He Was Born Blind?"
  - Or - These Neighbors:
    - May Have Been:
      - Others - Who Had Disabilities Themselves - And So:
        - Would Have Begged Alongside The Man:
          - And Knew Him Well!
  - But These Neighbors:
    - Saw A Difference In This Man:
      - After Jesus Gave Him His Sight!
- The Second Group - Were Others:
  - Who Are Described In 9:8 As:
    - "They Which Before Had Seen Him!"
  - They Were Probably The Passers-By:
    - Who Had Grown Accustomed To Seeing The Blind Man Along The Street:
      - Begging For His Provision:
        - For Days & Months & Years!
  - Perhaps They Too Wondered:
    - With The Disciples:
      - 9:2 - "Who Did Sin, This Man / Boy, Or His Parents, That He Was Born Blind?"
  - But This Group Of People:
    - Noticed A Change & A Difference In Him As Well!
- But - For Both Groups:
  - Their Reaction Was A:
    - Dumfounded Disbelief!
      - As Seen In The Three Questions:
        - They Ask About This Man & His Miracle!
- The First Question:
  - Was A Question About Who:
    - This Man Was - That Was Now Before Them!
      - A Question They Asked Each Other!
        - 9:8 - "Is Not This He That Sat And Begged?"
  - Though They Asked This Question:
    - In Wonder & Disbelief:
      - This Question Actually:
        - Confirms Further That A True Work Of God Had Been Done In That Man! A Genuine Miracle!
  - So - There Were *Many* Witnesses:
    - Of Jesus' Work! They Just Couldn't Believe:
      - Their Own Eyes!
  - But - Even Though:
    - The Miracle Brought About:
      - Disbelief - The Difference:
        - Could Not Be Denied!
    - Not By Them - Nor - By That Man!
      - And That Is Why - In Response To The Debate In 9:9:
        - "Some Said, This Is He: Others Said, He Is Like Him!"
          - The Man Simply Answers: "I Am He!"
- If Anyone Knew That:

- A True Work Of God Had Been Done That Day:
  - It Was That Man!
    - Because - He Could See!
  - And - This Naturally Led To:
- The Second Question:
  - Which Was - A Question About What:
    - Had Happened To Him:
      - To Cause This Change!
        - To Cause Him To See!
  - 9:10 - “Therefore Said They Unto Him, How Were Thine Eyes Opened?”
    - So - Their Surprise & Disbelief:
      - Turned To Curiosity & A Desire:
        - To Know - “What Happened?”
  - The Difference In That Man:
    - Was Clear & Noticeable!
      - What They Saw In That Man:
        - Convinced Them That He Was:
          - A Changed Man! That:
            - He Could Really See!
    - Perhaps - Like The Apostle Paul:
      - There Were Scales On His Eyes - Or:
        - Perhaps - His Eyes Had Been Completely Deformed!
    - But - Now:
      - He Was No Longer Looking Past Them:
        - But - Right At Them:
          - With His Own Two Eyes, Clear & Bright!
  - And Though - The Crowd:
    - Was Still In Disbelief About The Miracle:
      - The Difference:
        - Could Not Be Denied!
  - And So - In 9:11 - The Man Tells Them What He Knows!
    - About The Person - Who Healed Him!
      - “He Answered And Said, A Man That Is Called Jesus” - Did This!
    - Now - Even Though The Man Knew:
      - The Name Of Jesus - He Probably Didn’t Know Much More:
        - About Jesus Than That!
          - But - His Healing Was Not Contingent On His Knowledge!
      - This Was An Act:
        - Of Complete Mercy & Grace:
          - By The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - He Then Told Them What He Knew:
    - About The Process - Of His Healing!
      - 9:11 - That Jesus - “Made Clay, And Anointed Mine Eyes, And Said Unto Me, Go To The Pool Of Siloam, And Wash!”
        - This Is A Faithful Account Of All That Jesus Did & Said To That Man - As Recorded For Us:
          - Back In 9:6-7!
      - So - This Man Didn’t Know All That Much About Jesus - But:
        - Here He Is Already:
          - Giving A Faithful Testimony:
            - About The True Work Of God In His Life!
  - And Then He Told Them:
    - About The Provision - Of His Healing!
      - 9:11 - “And I Went And Washed, And I Received Sight!”
        - All - In Careful Compliance To Jesus’ Words To Him!
    - Isn’t This An Evidence Itself:
      - That A True Work Of God:
        - Had Been Done In That Man?

- There Was First:
  - A Comprehension Of Jesus' Words:
    - To Him!
- Then - There Was:
  - A Compliance To Jesus' Will!
    - What Jesus Said To Him:
      - He Did!
- And Then - There Was:
  - A Consideration Of Jesus' Work!
    - Because - The Focus Of The Man Was More On What Jesus Did For Him - Than On:
      - What He Did For Jesus!
- And - This Will Still Be The Evidence / Proof:
  - Of A True Work Of God:
    - In Your Heart & Life!
      - Greater Comprehension:
        - Of God's Word!
      - Greater Compliance:
        - To God's Will! And:
      - Greater Consideration:
        - Of God's Work!
          - To God Be The Glory!
- Is There Evidence In Your Own Life:
  - Of A True Work Of God?
    - Well - This All Leads To:
- The Third Question:
  - Which Was - A Question About Where:
    - Could They Find Jesus?
      - If He Could Do Such A Miracle:
        - They Wanted To Meet Him, And Find Out More:
          - About Him!
  - 9:12 - "They Said They Unto Him, Where Is He? (But) He Said, I Know Not!"
    - Perhaps There Was A Bit Of Disappointment:
      - In The Man's Reply!
        - After All - He Might Have Returned To The Place Where Jesus First Met Him:
          - To Seek Him & To See Him & To Thank Him!
  - But - Even Though:
    - There Was Disbelief:
      - Among Those Who Knew This Man Best:
        - There Was No Denying:
          - That What He Had Experienced:
            - Was A True Work Of God!
    - Is This Something That:
      - You Perceive In Your Own Heart & Life?
        - Has A True Work Of God:
          - Been Accomplished - Not Just For You, But In You?
    - If So - There Will Be A Change!
      - There Will Be A Difference!
        - And - There Will Be Such A Change & Such A Difference:
          - That - It Will Cause Surprise & Disbelief - Especially Among Those Who Know You Best!
            - Your Family / Your Friends / Your Church!
      - But - Even If There Is Disbelief:
        - There Will Be No Denying:
          - A True Work Of God!
        - Because - The Evidence Will Be Clear!
          - You Will Have A New Pursuit In Your Life!
            - God's Word & Will & Work! For His Glory!

- Pray For This Kind Of Work:
  - In Your Life Today!
    - In The Life Of Others Today!
      - In Our Church Today!
        - A True Work Of God That Cannot Be Denied!
- But Then - We Can Also See:
  - From These Verses - That:
    - A True Work Of God Also:

## 2. ***May Bring About Dissension!***

- Just Like The Dissension:
  - Of The Pharisees That We Read About - Starting In:
    - 9:13 - “They Brought To The Pharisees Him That Aforetime Was Blind!”
      - So - It Seems Like - The Questions That His Neighbors & Acquaintances Had About Him - Were Not Answered To Their Satisfaction!
        - So - They Go To The Pharisees, Who They Regarded & Respected As Experts In Spiritual Things:
          - To Find Out More!
    - But - What Might Have Been:
      - A Honest Desire For Answers:
        - Turned Into A Trial:
          - Not Just About Jesus - But:
            - For That Man Himself!
    - And So - In 9:14-15 - We Discover:
      - That A True Work Of God:
        - Will Often Bring:
  - Even More Disturbance!
    - In 9:14 - John Gives Us A Little, But Important Fact - That We Didn't Yet Know!
      - “And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes!”
        - “It Was The Sabbath Day” - When:
          - This Work Of God Was Performed By Jesus!
      - But - To The Pharisees:
        - The Day Is What Made All:
          - The Difference!
        - They Had Made A Long List:
          - Of Rules & Regulations:
            - For The Sabbath Day!
              - Of What People Could & Could Not Do!
        - And - One Of Those Rules:
          - Was That - A Person Could Not:
            - Do The Ordinary Work Of “Kneading!”
              - Bread / Clay! Jesus Did!
        - Another One Of Those Rules:
          - Was That - A Person Could Not:
            - Do Even The Extraordinary Work Of “Healing!”
              - Unless It Was A Matter Of Life & Death! Jesus Did!
        - But - Once Again - The Pharisees:
          - Did Not Consider:
            - The Plight Of The Blind Man!
              - Nor - The Power Of Jesus!
              - Nor - The Purpose Of The Law & Even The Sabbath!
        - And Though All Of This Caused:
          - Quite The Disturbance:
            - Among Those Respected Religious Leaders:
              - There Was Still No Denying:
                - That A True Work Of God Had Been Done!
        - So - 9:15 - “Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see!”

- So - Even Though:
  - More Questions Are Asked:
    - The Answer Given By The Formerly Blind Man:
      - Is The Same!
  - However - This Time, His Answer Is:
    - A Bit Shorter - And Maybe Even:
      - A Bit More Terse!
      - As We Will See - This Man Is Quite The Character Himself!
- But - No Matter What Kind Of Disturbance:
  - A True Work Of God Might Bring About:
    - There Can Be No Denying It!
      - Not By The One Who Experiences God's Work!
      - And - Not Even By The World!
- But - When You Pray For & Experience:
  - A True Work Of God:
    - You Need To Be Prepared For:
      - The Kind Of Disturbance:
        - It Might Bring!
    - And - "Be Ready Always To Give An Answer To Every Man That Asketh You A Reason Of The Hope That Is In You With Meekness And Fear!" (1 Peter 3:15)
      - Just Like That Man Did!
- But Then - We Can Also See:
  - From 9:16 - That A True Work Of God:
    - Will Also - More Than Likely - Bring:
- Even More Division!
  - 9:16 - "Therefore said some of the Pharisees, 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!"
    - This Was An Intra-Mural Debate:
      - Between Two Groups Of Pharisees!
        - And - Both Groups Used Their Own Logic & Reasoning:
          - To Figure Jesus Out!
  - The Majority Opinion:
    - Was Probably The First Opinion:
      - In 9:16 - "This Man Is Not Of God, Because He Keepeth Not The Sabbath Day!"
    - And - On The Face Of It:
      - Their Logic Was Well Reasoned & Right!
        - But - Was Their Proposition About Jesus Right?
          - Did Jesus *Not* Keep The Sabbath Day?
      - According To *Their* Standards:
        - Perhaps - But What About:
          - *God's* Standards & Law?
    - According To God's Law:
      - Acts Of Mercy & Necessity:
        - Were Never Wrong On The Sabbath!
        - In Fact - They Were Encouraged!
      - And - Jesus Came:
        - To Fulfill The Laws:
          - Even Of The Sabbath!
    - So - Even Though Their Premise About Jesus Was Wrong:
      - The Majority Of Pharisees:
        - Condemned Jesus And His Work!
  - However - The Minority Opinion:
    - Which Was Probably The Second Opinion:
      - Was A Little More Open!
        - 9:16b - "How Can A Man That Is A Sinner Do Such Miracles?"
    - And - Once Again - On The Face Of It:
      - Their Logic Was Also Well Reasoned & Right!
        - But - Their Proposition About Jesus Was Also Faulty!

- Was Jesus A Sinner?
  - Sadly - Many Would Conclude That He Was! And That:
    - He Even Did These Miracles Through The Power Of The Devil!
- And So - As The Debate Raged On:
  - John Tells Us - 9:16c:
    - “And There Was A Division Among Them!”
- This Too Is What A True Work Of God:
  - Will Often Do!
    - It Will Bring About:
      - Dissension - Through:
        - Disturbances & Even Division!
  - Jesus Himself Said:
    - In Matthew 10:34-36 - “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. / For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. / And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household!”
      - So - All Of This Can Be Expected:
        - When A True Work Of God Is Accomplished!
          - In A Person / A Family / A Church!
  - But - Even Then:
    - It Cannot Be & It Must Not Be Denied!
      - For Jesus Also Says:
        - Matthew 10:32-33 - “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. / But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven!”

**Conclusion:**

1. So - Even Though A True Work Of God:
  - May Bring About:
    - Disbelief & Dissension:
      - It Cannot Be & It Must Not Be Denied!
2. What Can We Do:
  - With This Message From The Blind Man?
    - Three Things:
      - First - Perceive!
        - Is There Evidence In Your Life:
          - Of A True Work Of God?
            - Through The Gospel Of God’s Grace To You?
        - If He Opened Your Eyes & Heart & Will:
          - What Is The Proof & Evidence?
            - Turn & Trust & Even Trial!
      - Second - Pray!
        - Pray For A True Work Of God:
          - To Be Done - No Matter What!
            - No Matter What People Might:
              - Think / Say / Otherwise React!
                - Even With Disbelief & Division!
          - Pray For A True Work Of God:
            - To Be Done:
              - In You & Through You!
              - In Your Loved Ones!
              - In Our Church!
              - In Our Ministries!
          - And - If We Experience:
            - The Same Reactions As The Blind Man:
              - Pray To Be Faithful & Consistent:
                - In Your Witness!
        - Third - Prepare!

- Prepare For A True Work Of God!
    - By Being Ready:
      - For The Reactions:
        - Of Disbelief & Division:
          - To Come - Even From:
            - Those Who May Be Closest To You!
3. Because - No Matter What:
  - A True Work Of God:
    - Can Never Be Denied!
      - Because - As We Hear From Ecclesiastes 3:14:
        - “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him!”
  - We Need A True Work Of God:
    - This Very Day!
      - But The Question Is:
        - Do You Really & Truly Want It?

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