

Opening Blind Eyes: The Miracle of Hope

When life gets blurry, God wants us to see through our obstacle illusions. When they came upon this the blind man, the disciples didn't say, "Jesus, is there anything that we can do for him? Is there any hope? Jesus, could You heal him?" No, All they said was, "Who could we blame?"



John 9:1-12 (NIV) As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

Reflections

Webster defines a miracle as "an event or action that apparently contradicts known scientific laws." Miracles are not merely superhuman events, but events that demonstrate God's power. God uses miracles to strengthen faith, give his people hope, and lead people to him. The Old Testament dramatically points to a coming person sent by God to save God's people (the Messiah) whose ministry would be validated by his ability to perform miracles. Isaiah prophesied of this person:

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;" (Isaiah 35:5-6)

Jesus' miracles pointed people

to God. His entire life and ministry was (and is) about the redemption of God's fallen creation. He has authority over everything including sin. As he restored sight, hearing, the ability to walk, and life to the dead, Jesus was about more

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than physical restoration. Jesus did not want to be seen as simply a miracle worker. He wanted the focus to be on the real reason he came — our spiritual reconnection to God. When Jesus restored the sight of

blind man at the pool in Bethesda, it showed everyone his power (verse 3). So the man's blindness was used by God, as is everything, both good and bad (Romans 8:28).

Jesus calls us to step out in faith, believe, and begin to see the miracles God can do in our lives. As we allow Jesus to work, we will experience our spiritually blind eyes clearing to see the activity of God around us. Our ears, deaf toward God, will open and we will hear the voice of God. Jesus' spirit will mobilize us to move in response to his voice, healing our spiritual lameness.

Jesus' miracles are significant, not just because of their spectacular power, but because of their purpose. Jesus helps, heals, and points us to God who is still in the miracle business.

—Mickey Kibler

Readings

Sunday, May 24

John 9:1-12

What physical or emotional misfortune in your life has turned into an opportunity for God to demonstrate His power?

Monday, May 25

John 9:1-12

How are sin and suffering related? When you hear about another person's misfortune, do you react like the disciples or Jesus? Why?

Tuesday, May 26

1 Peter 1:3-9

In times of personal crisis, do you tend to lean more on God or do you blame God? Has suffering made you bitter or better?

Wednesday, May 27

Mark 7:31-37

Consider a time when you were spiritually blind or deaf. How did God open your eyes or ears?

Thursday, May 28

Mark 6:45-52

Have you ever doubted God's presence in your life and asked him to prove himself? What happened?

Friday, May 29

Romans 8:26-30

What is your understanding about why God doesn't choose to heal every person's illness? What may be God's bigger purpose in healing or not healing?

Saturday, May 30

Acts 3:1-10

Are you fearful to ask God for what you need? Why or why not?

Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at biblegateway.com.