

Faith Builder Series

**THE
THE
GOSPEL
GOSPEL
OF JOHN**



Life changing and impacting studies through the Gospel of John – with the *soul* purpose of strengthening and building your faith and trust in God!

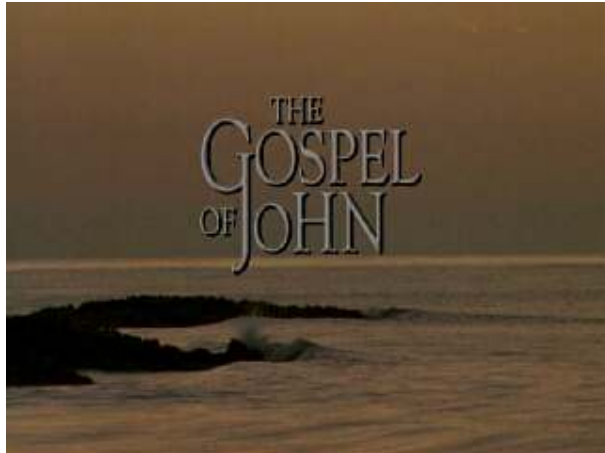
04 – Party Time!

Ps Roger Spackman

Entire series of Bible Workshops freely available from

www.TeAtatuBaptist.com

Slide # 1 - Video – Gospel of John – chapter 9



Slide # 1



Original Meaning
What it meant 2000 years ago!

This passage doesn't have as much to do with the eyes, as it does with the heart.

In this chapter, Jesus literally gets to the *heart* of the matter.

This man – blind from birth – is descriptive of all people who do not know Jesus – but having met Him – have their eyes opened and no longer live in darkness.

And yet also, we have the professional religious leaders –

...those who knew the law,

...those who knew the scriptures and had memorized entire books as their *entry ticket* to the priesthood,

...those who ministered in the temple on behalf of the people –

...these educated theologians –

...who although *seeing* clearly, are nevertheless *blind* and living in spiritual darkness.

Therefore, it is easy to see – that this man who was blind from birth - really represents the *whole nation of Israel* – living in spiritual darkness.

Here's the amazing thing –

...the One to whom all the people prayed to,

the One whom the rituals of Water and Light represented.

The One whom Israel loved and longed for –

...the Light of the Tabernacle – was there in their midst – and they couldn't even see Him!

It wasn't just the blind man who couldn't see Jesus – it was also those who had perfect 20/20 vision.

And just maybe, like the man who couldn't see Jesus with his physical eyes –

...what the religious leaders needed to do –

...was stop looking in the flesh, and instead look into the spiritual.

And if they did – they would see ample proof that Jesus really is the Messiah.

And in this case – *the proof that He gave* – was the healing of one of the most destructive and debilitating diseases known at the time of Jesus – *eye disease* and blindness.



Slide # 2

You see – this kind of disease was one of the most *common* diseases during the days of Jesus.



Historians state that at *least* one person in every family was suffering from such an ailment.

Slide # 3

And the reason Jesus made a paste out of saliva and dirt –

...was because this was saliva was the exact medicine that chemists and doctors used in the days of Jesus to heal such infirmities!

And of course we know that doctors existed in the days of Jesus – because Luke –

...another disciple of Jesus –

...who wrote a gospel bearing his name – also identifies *himself* as a doctor.

And here – we have Jesus using the common medicine of the day – saliva – to heal this mans blindness.

You see – as we start to think about this more, we see how vitally important this incident really is.

Firstly, this medicine would only work on people who *already* had their sight, who had contracted an eye infection affecting the sight they already have.

But – the man Jesus healed – *never* had his sight in the first place – and therefore *didn't* contract an eye infection,

...but had a more organic and physiological reason for his blindness.

So – why on earth did Jesus heal the man in *this* way?

I can only *speculate* that Jesus wanted to help people to see and understand...

... that His divine powers are grater than all others, including doctors, priests and natural healing agents.

But then again, I think Jesus also might just have advanced the medical profession by *centuries* by doing what He did.

Let me explain – and as I do – you need to know that what I am about to say is unique –

...and I have not heard of it *anywhere* else – despite my in-depth research.

As mentioned before, saliva was a *common* healing agent for eye infections.

Why?

Simply because saliva contains amongst other things,

...electrolytes,

...anti-bacterial agents,

...enzymes and mucus.

The purpose of these components is literally to begin digesting, dissolving or *eating away* at the food in the mouth –

...before it reaches the stomach.

When applied to an eye that is infected with microscopic parasites, disease or fungus –

...the components in saliva does the same thing with food in the mouth –

...it starts *eating* it away –

...and basically begins to remove the infection from the eye.

Now – these things are widely known to anyone who wants to research it.

But – why on earth does Jesus *also* use dust or dirt from the ground?

This is the part that I find fascinating!

You see – one of my hobbies – is microscopy and micro-biology.

One thing I have found –

...is that within a handful of dirt – from anywhere in the world –

...are these amazingly small microbes or animals such as Rotifers, Diatoms and Nematodes. .

They are as small as 10 microns.

If you were to divide a millimetre by 1000 equal parts –

...these living microbes would take up just 10 of these divisions!

A blood cell is only 7 microns.

Without getting too technical,

...these microbes are alive,

...and even though they are so small that you can't see them with the naked eye,

...these microbes require *food* to survive – and what do they feed upon?

The very organisms, fungus and bacteria that cause eye infection and disease!

So – can you see what I am suggesting?

Maybe Jesus performed a miracle by healing this blind man –

... something which no medicine or doctor could do – since he was born blind.

But – at the same time,

...knowing that everyone would hear of this miracle – and try to copy it – would *now* combine it with dirt.

Maybe Jesus just gave the people of that age –

...an *advanced* medication to ease their suffering and restore sight to the multitudes who would now try saliva and dirt –

...and in the process be healed.

And if this seems to far-fetched to accept –

...then perhaps we need to be reminded where and how penicillin was discovered.

Slide # 4

Bridge over time
Timeless Truths
Universal Principles

There are *many* universal principles this chapter, and we will just look at a few of them briefly this morning.



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One of the biggest questions that arises from this passage – is this:

If Jesus healed then, then surely since *He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow*, then He can do the *same* today!

As we explore the answer to this, there are a couple of things to consider –

...but only if we have an open mind –

...open eyes that want to see the truth, and not just what we have always believed.

Otherwise we become like the priests and religious Jews – having our full sight, but being *unable* to see beyond our own insight and understanding.

Thing is, that in the early church,

...for around the next 3 or 4 hundred years after Jesus rose from the dead –

...apart from what was recorded in the book of Acts –

...miraculous healings were *nowhere* to be seen.

From my study, I came across just one healing that could be considered a miracle – during this period.

But what we do find –

...is that it was the Christians who began and instigated places of healing-

... called *hospitals* with God given healing agents called *medicine*.

It wasn't for around another 1000 years later-

...that healings and miracles became known again –

...after the birth of the Protestant church and especially through the Wesley brothers.

In fact, during the Dark Ages and the Catholic Inquisitions of the later part of the first millennium –

...the test to find out if a person did indeed possess powers from God to perform miracles of healings –

... and if they thought that they too could do the works that Jesus did,

...then they had to *first* walk on water the same as He did!

Suffice to say – nobody passed the test.

However, the reality is – that throughout time and history –

...God seems to perform miracles and healings *more* in developing or third world countries-

... who do not have access to medicine, hospitals and doctors.

Many of the diseases in such countries could be avoided with basic education in hygiene and sanitation.

These are the *very* things that Christian missionaries-

...over time and history - have excelled in.

And was one of the reasons my parents were missionaries in the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea – where I was born.

You see – God really does care about people, about us.

God did, does and will heal – both through miracles and through medicine.

Slide # 5



Application to today!
What it means to you and
me – right now!

I want to draw this study to a close,

...and in doing so – be faithful to the topics raised in the Bible today –

...healing,

...faith,

...obedience and

...discipleship –

...and how each of these applies to *my* life, and maybe to *your* life today.

Today's chapter brings up many *controversial* topics.

Did Jesus expect us to do the same *miracles* He did – such as walk on water and heal the blind??

Or maybe we are expected to do the same *works* as Jesus did?

There is a *big* difference.

One is a carbon copy, whereas the other is the *heart, purpose* and *reason* why He did these things.

The foundation of the *work* Jesus did –

...was to minister into the areas of the community and of people's lives – where there was no other help.

In Waitakere city - New Zealand –

...are we meant to heal the blind today – when there are *doctors* everywhere who do this very thing?

Are we meant to provide for the poor and the widow – when our *government* and welfare system already does?

I am not condoning or disputing these things – I'm just asking the question as *food for thought*.

You see, did Jesus come to *heal* people or to make them *whole*?

There is a difference.

A person can be *healed* yet still sick,

...and a person can be sick and yet still *whole*.

Are we meant to copy the literal and identical miracles and healings of Jesus in the Bible.

...or are we meant to copy the principles and heart of the matter – doing the same works and wholeness?

I wonder what ‘*works*’ Jesus would do today if He lived in *our* neighbourhood today?

(Get feedback)

Well, I have some Good News for you.

Jesus *has* indeed moved into our neighbourhood.

Guess where He is living.

In YOUR heart, and in YOUR house.

You are the light of the world!

What would Jesus do in our *community* today?

What would Jesus do in your family, in your workplace and in your church?

What would Jesus do?

Let’s pray.

Faith Builder Series



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| 6. John 4:1-54 | Eternally satisfied |
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| 9. John 7:1-52 | Standing up for Jesus |
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| 17. John 14:1-31 | I won't leave you alone |
| 18. John 15:1 – 16:4a | Staying connected |
| 19. John 16:4b – 33 | Led by the Spirit |
| 20. John 17:1-26 | Inspirational prayer |
| 21. John 18:1 – 19:16a | The Passion! |
| 22. John 19:16b – 42 | Golgotha and Glory |
| 23. John 20:1-31 | Unless I can touch Him... |
| 24. John 21:1-25 | Breakfast on the beach! |

Part One
The Book of
SIGNS

Part Two
The Book of
GLORY