

Title: It's hard to believe a Miracle!

Text; John 9:8-23

Would you take your Bibles and turn to John chapter 9. We want to pick up our story of the Blind man that was healed by Jesus. Last week we stopped at Vs 7. So, let's begin with Vs 8. There are notes in your bulletin. We encourage you to follow along with *me* as we study the Word of God together. John chapter 9 beginning at Vs 8...(READ 9:8-23)

Would you join with me for a moment of prayer

Father, we thank you, again, for your Word. We know that here is the truth. And the truth will set us free. Father, I thank you that you know all things. You know why you have caused blindness in the world. And so often you have remained us of your love behind all the conditions of men. And father we thank you for the lessons we learn and how you want to work through usf...And even <sup>those</sup> ~~those~~ who are suffering. And even in our suffering the power of God is being displayed to the world.

So, we thank you for your loving, hand, your kind hand. And Father we pray that you would help us to believe a miracle. We know it is hard. It is hard to believe the miracles of the Bible. And it is hard to believe present day miracles....Forgive us for our lack of faith. And help us to be strong in the word. For we ask this in Jesus name....Amen.

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(1C) In the first 7 verses we examined the performance of this miracle.

How Jesus used clay and the pool of Si'loom to heal a man of blindness.

Beginning at Vs 8 we have a portion of scripture that is quite humorous when you stop and think about it. It concern the confusion or

(2C) puzzlement over this miracle. And I would like you to see this puzzlement in the lives of several groups of people

(1D) First of all, in the lives of his neighbors. *me Jan* Vs 8-12 let's examine

how his neighbors were puzzled over this miracle. How did it happen?

*It is really quite funny because people react the same way today as they did in the days of our Lord.*  
~~That is true about any miracle that is really a miracle.~~

~~I am not talking about the gradual kind.~~ I was sharing with a christian man resental. And he was telling me how God had healed him. And I said "Praise God" that is wonderful. And the man said, "Yes, I had a back problem and it took three operation to take care of the problem. And it is fantastic how God healed my back."

I said, "that is great. It is wonderful. How does it feel now?" Oh, it is O.K. A little sore, but it is not bad."

I said, <sup>you know</sup> ~~Friend~~, God <sup>doesn't</sup> ~~didn't~~ heal <sup>that way</sup> ~~you~~. He doesn't <sup>not sort</sup> ~~sort~~ of do it half way. You know, makes you feel a little good here and not so good over there.

Oh, no, when God heals you he does it right. He really does. I mean He takes care of it. He shapes it up, just like that. He can heal you.

God heals. And when he heals it is tremendous. [ And there wasn't any question about this man. He was blind from the moment he was born. And that is what makes the story so funny. Because when <sup>God</sup> he heals, He heals. This man came <sup>back</sup> seeing. It was <sup>Not</sup> ~~gradual~~. A slow healing process. Oh, no. He came

seeing.....Listen, the moment you get saved. It is the same thing. People are not saved gradually heaping <sup>their</sup> there experience might appear to be so.

Salvation in the Bible is taught as an immidiate act. It is not gradual.

It is immidate. Your eyes are open and you see Jesus. ~~you believe it.~~

Now, It may happen in the quietness of your own heart through the instruction of a friend. It might ~~happen~~ happen in a meeting when all of a sudden it comes upon you and you experience it.

But, listen, salvation is immidate. You are saved immidately. It is not gradual at all. And from the moment I accept Christ I <sup>am</sup> ~~am~~ in Him. And I cannot get out of him. A tremendous thing. ~~You can see right away.~~

And this fellow is a living example. And the neighbors who had known him, like good neighbors, all got involved. ~~12.~~ 12.

And I just want to share four things <sup>about these neighbors</sup>

(1E) First of all, notice the conclusion they had drawn. Vs 8: "The neighbors therefore, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, 'is not this the one who used to sit and beg?'"

Now, the simple conclusion they drew was that we have seen this fellow over a long period of time. This is got to be him, is it not? The answer you would assume here is: "YES, IT IS"...

Now, the text says that he was a "beggar". And I want to emphasize that because the miracle here is not somebody out-of-the-growth, not just a passer-byer..It wasn't somebody unknown. NO....this was a beggar. And you see them all the time. The blind beggar always sat at the main gates of the city. That is where all the people would pass by. And these neighbors had seen him day in and day out. These were the neighbors who lived by this fellow. They knew who he was. And he was a beggar. And he sat by the gates like all the beggars did. Waiting for someone to give them an alm. In fact it was the responsibility of a good Jew to give Alms to these beggars So, everybody knew about this fellow. We need to get that clearly in our minds. It wasn't somebody that all of a sudden showed up.

(2E) Secondly, notice the ~~confusion~~ confusion over his identity. And that is very funny since they really knew who he was. Vs 9, "Others were saying, 'this is he,' still others were saying, 'No, but he is like him.'"

You know, that is just like people, today, who hear of a miracle and say, "Well, maybe. I am not quite sure."

But, notice what the beggar said. "I am the one." Here I am. It is me. I am the one. Remember, I am the beggar that sat at the gate."

Some people have suggested that since his eyes were opened it might have changed his facial expressions. And that is why his neighbors were unsure.....

I don't know about that. I just don't understand that. As a matter of fact, the more I read the story the less I wholeheartedly view. I think the real issue all the way through this story is "do not want to believe that a miracle had taken place." That is the big issue. And the more you get into it the funner it gets. Because here he is seeing. I mean, just look at the fellow. There he is.

*Instead of Praising God, notice  
Pharisees*

(36) ~~Third~~, Third, notice the concern they had over how it happened.

Vs 10, "Therefore they were saying to him, 'how then were your eyes opened?'"  
Now, don't you <sup>Think</sup> ~~think~~ it would be WHO" opened your eyes, instead of "HOW"....  
He has already told them that a man had healed him, you know and he had gone to the pool of Si'loom under his directions and gotten healed.

And these folks are wanting to know the mechanics of this. HOW IN THE WORLD WERE YOUR EYES HEALED.....In other words, we don't believe you....

You say, "well, there he was." YES, there he was. Well, if that is really you, there. I mean, if it really is. Tell us how it happened..

(46) Then, in Vs ~~40~~-11 notice the confession. A simple confession on his part. He said, "alright, you want to know how. I am going to tell you how. "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, Go to Si'loom, and wash; so I went, and I received sight."

Now, literally, he said, "THE MAN". The one being called Jesus. It is not "a" man. It is "the" man. The one everybody knew about. [You see, they knew about him too. And the beggar simple said, "Oh, you know the one. "The man," The one who has been around here speaking. The one who everybody is talking about. The one that is called Jesus. That is the one. He healed me. Oh, ~~they knew quite well that it was Jesus alright.~~

So, they say in Vs 12, "Where is He?.....

Look back at Vs 59 of chapter 8. Do you remember what happened at the end of that discussion? It says that "they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple."

Where is he? And the beggar said, "I do not know."...Well, then you couldn't be healed....Do you see the point?.. isn't this kind of dumb? I mean the guy is standing there and he see's. And they are saying, "Well, where is the one that healed you?" As if that makes any difference... He sees. And that is what is important....Not who healed you....

Can you not understand how ridiculous this is? The fellow is seeing. Why not say, "Hay, man that is fantastic."..... *Praise the fact*

So, what do they do next? Look at it carefully. Vs 13 "They brought to the Pharisees ~~him~~ who was formerly blind." *This is the second group that I would like you to see.*

Bring this man To The Pharisees?

Now, why did they ~~ask~~? Well, because no body knows about miracles like the Pharisees. They would <sup>not</sup> take him to the Saducees. They don't believe in the power of God and the resurrection or miracles. So don't take him to them. We have to take this guy to some religious leaders and see if it is O.K. that he is healed, you see. So, we are going to call the Pharisees. After all they believe in miracles and the power of God. So, let's go check this out with them....

And this beggar who was blind and now sees is just having a great time. I wish I was him, Don't you? He is just going along with these people to the Pharisees to see if it is O.K. that he got healed....(Ha)...You know... He is looking at all of this. Isn't that fantastic.

You know, that is kind off like a new convert. You think about it. We already know what the point of this miracle is. It is spiritual blindness And it is like a new convert . He just got saved. And all his friends don't believe it. He knows it in his heart. And he is just having a great time because he sees. And all the friends are trying to find out what is wrong with John, you know.

*you know* "What do you mean?" Just ask Jesus into your heart and all your problems are gone. And the new believer sort-off smiles to himself. He don't know all the theology. But he knows he is saved. Once he was ~~blind~~ <sup>blind</sup> and now <sup>he can</sup> see... That is all I know.....Tremendous....Oh, people, ~~see~~ <sup>see</sup> the joy of this beggar as he walks along with all these people questioning whether or not he can see...And here he is seeing....

And now we are going to have the big religious conference. You see, when miralces start happening, and people start getting saved, and people don't really want to believe it, then you have to have a conference. That is what you usually do. And you elect four or five committees to study the problem...(ha)...Isn't that funny....?

*me* (1E) Now, I would like you to notice, first of all, as to the day it happened. Vs 14.. "Now ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> was a Sabbath on the day when Jeus made the clay, and opened his eyes." Now, wouldn't you know it. It would be the Sabbath. And here we go again.

It seems that when Jesus heals someone, it is on the Sabbath. Now, friends, the law never said, "Don't heal on the sabbath day." This was all a part of tradition that grew up in extra Biblical material. It was not in the Word of God. For the very thing that you ought to do on God's day was to have an act of mercy...Heal someone..But, the Pharisees had just blow it all out of proportion. So, Jesus again is causing them a problem..

One

(2E) Now, secondly, I would like you to notice the details as to how this happened. Vs 15, "Again the Pharisees ask him how he received his sight." This sounds like a broken record. Back in Vs 10 the neighbors said, "How then were your eyes opened?" The Pharisees run it through again, "How did you receive your sight?" "And he said to them"...By this time he should have had it printed. In that way he would pass out copies...

"He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Now, what more do you want?

*was decided like you to Jesus there regular lesson*

(3E) Vs 16...Notice the decision they come to. There are three things they concluded. All based upon the beggar's answer...

(1F) The first thing that was part of this decision that they came to ~~was~~ <sup>involved</sup> ~~involving~~ the cause, behind it. How they could have done this is almost impossible to reason or believe. Here the man sees. And they say, "This man is not of God." That is the first conclusion they drew. The decision they came to was: that it wasn't God who did this. This man is not of God. Not "out of God" as the source. For the Greek word is "along side of". The point is: God giving approval.

and

This man is not along side of God. We can tell you that. And notice, all the beggar said was that he put clay in my eyes and I washed and I am now seeing. And they draw the conclusion right away that this man could not possibly be along side of God getting his approval..NO WAY...

(2F) The second thing that was part of the decision that they came up with involved his conduct....On the answer of the beggar the Pharisees conclude in Vs 16 "he does not keep the Sabbath."

not

They did not say, by the way, that he didn't keep the Sabbath in this one thing. If they said that it would be another tense in Greek.



And the Bible says that something happened in the midst of those religious leaders. And it happens all the time when people discuss Jesus. "AND THERE WAS A DIVISION AMONG THEM."

Just bring up the name of Jesus as to who he really was and what the Bible says about him, and watch division take place. There was a division. But, notice, they attack his personal character. How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs.

*Now*  
*out* Many people have ask the question, WHAT ARE THEY REFERING TO? Are they refreing to the breaking of the law that they thought he was breaking by healing on the Sabbath? I don't think so...I believe it is an attack on his character. That is, *who* He clamed to be. Jesus had said in chapter 8 vese 49 "B do not have a demon, but I honor My father, and you dishonor me." How could a man who is a sinner do such miracles. *They were* Attacking his character.

By the way I *let me remain you of something* ~~can't answer that question~~. Jesuss siad, "You will do greater miracles than I have ever done." You see, sinners can do miracles Did you know that? Why, the Apostles were sinners and they did miracles. These Pharisees were concluding incorrectly. A man doesn't go miracles because of the power within himself. He performs miracles because God is doing that miracle through him.

*mt* Oh yes, a man who is a sinner saved by grace has the ability to do miracles. The Bible teaches that. The Apostle were not sinlessly perfect. WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THEIR ARGUMENT? They would have many more men do the same miralces that Jesus did in the very near future. And they would be faced with the same proble,.

*secondly*  
(4E) Now, fourth, in Vs 17 I want you to see the discription, *of Jesus* ~~now~~, *by* this man born blind.

Now, mind you, this man did *NOT* really have saving faith in Jesus the moment he came back seeing. I don't think so. Because when the neighbors ask him who had healed him, all he could answer was "that man called Jeus." But I see him in Vs 19 getting a little courage. He is starting to see through the problem. These religious leaders questioning him about the fact that he sees. He knows he sees....Now watch what he says....



Vs 17... "They said therefore to the blind man again, what do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?"

You see, their attack has now come down to the fact that they cannot attack the fact that the beggar is seeing. So they say, now wait a minute. What do you say about Him, since he opened your eyes?...

And the beggar thinking this over gets a little brave. Much like the person, today, who is confronted with the question of who Jesus really is. "WELL, I THINK HE IS A PROPHET?.....(ha)

And this is beautiful. Because the story is not finished yet. In the end this beggar comes to the real truth....But now, he says, I think he is a prophet.

*cut* Vs 18, "The Jews did not believe it of him." But let me ask you the question. Why would he say that? Why would he now say that Jesus was a prophet?...Answer: In the O.T. Elijah and Elisha were prophets. And they did many miracles. So, he put 2 and 2 together. I think he is a prophet.

Do you know that he was right? Jesus was a prophet. He is the prophet of all prophets. He is the prophet that Moses said is going to come. The greatest prophet who has ever lived. And everything he speaks is the truth. He is a prophet.

Jesus is also the High Priest. He is also the King. *But* the blind man was right when he called Jesus a prophet. But at this point it was just a guess. For after all, other prophets heal, so Jesus must be a prophet....

*cut* Well, we have looked at the Neighbors. We have looked at the Pharisees. *(3D)* Now, let's come to the parents in Vs 18-23. And if you think these parents are going to be of much help, you haven't read the story. Vs 18, "The Jews therefore did not believe it of him, that he had been blind, and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight."

You see, they still don't believe that this man had been healed. So, they call his parents....But, these parents are real winners...

I am glad they are not my parents. Here this man is standing before the chief rulers of Israel. He needs a <sup>little</sup> ~~whole~~ encouragement and help. And notice how his parents really come through.

*cm* (1E) First of all notice the questioning of the parants by the Jews. Vs 19,

"Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"

They wouldn't believe this story until the parants varified it.

(2E) <sup>So first of all</sup> Secondly, notice the information the parants gave them. It invovled four things.

(1F) One, the proof that this was their son. Vs 20 "His parents answered them and siad, 'we know that this is our son.'"

The guy probale said, "Thank, mom. Thank ~~Dad~~. I appreciate that." You saved me on that point. Let me tell you Mom, <sup>Dad,</sup> ~~these~~ folks are not believing that I am seeing. And I am. I am so glad that you were willing to claim me as your son. That is tremendous.

(2A) But, before he gets to excited. Notice in the second place they said that they are not sure <sup>how</sup> he sees.

I don't believe that, by the way. I know that is opinion on my part. But I don't believe that. I believe that one of the first people that the blind man would have told in the proper Jewish chain of command knowing the homes that they were would have been his parents.

But they say, We know that this is our son and we know that he was born blind; but, Vs 21, "how he now sees, we do not know." We don't know how it was done.

Now, if you believe that I am being a little hard on the parents then notice Vs 22. The Bible tells you why the paratns said what they said. And it wasn't because they ~~didn't~~ know. It was because they feared the Jews.

It is alike many parents today whose children come to know Jeus and really get turned on for the Lord. And then the parants, a little bit embarassed over it, say, "Well, he is our boy, but ~~he~~ is just going through a stage. You know, he will <sup>get</sup> over it soon."

(3F) And third, the person was not known to them. And this is really a sad commentary on the part of the parents.

And who has opened his eyes. It is like many of us. We don't know either. We don't really know Jesus. Jesus has opened the eyes of people, spiritually, and you don't really know him. I mean, you have heard about him. But you don't really know him. Jesus opned his eyes.

(46) And the fourth thing, they said, that the problem could only be solved by their son. Vs 21 "He is of age, he ~~said~~<sup>shall</sup> speak for himself."

Go ahead, son. You are on. Take it away.. Tell us...Proove it...  
Hay Mom. Hay Dad. You have been with me all my life. I was born blind. Now, I see. Am I your son or ~~am~~ I not your son? You have already admitted that I am your son. So, why are you doing this?

You are of age, speak....

(36) Well, the Bible tells us in the ~~third~~<sup>second</sup> place ~~that~~<sup>why</sup> they ~~didn't want to get involved.~~ And they didn't want to get invovleved because of something the Jews had already said. In Vs 22 these parants feared the Jews because the Jews had agreed already that if any one did onnfess that Jesus was Christ, he should ~~be~~<sup>be</sup> put out of the synagogue. "For this reason his parents siad, He is of age; ask him."

The whole reason was that they didn't want to be involved. They had a fear of being put out off the fellowship. To be put out of the synagogue was not like the usher coming down and asking you to leave church today. No, it means that you were cut-off from buying and selling in the theocrias of Israel. To be put out of the synagogue was to be put out of economy life. You ~~lose~~<sup>LOST</sup> your means of support. It was as if you din't exist. You were cast out.

And I know that this is getting ahead <sup>of things</sup>. But the very next chapter deal with the tremendous story of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep. Now, put Vs 22 together with chapter 10. Put out of the synagogue. But the shepherd went and found the sheep that was lost. And he brought ~~them~~<sup>him</sup> back. And he said, "I have one fold, but some are not of it." Meaning the fold of the Jews.

And what a trmendous illustration of what happens here in Vs 22.

Because the very one that is kicked out of the fold of the Jews, Jesus said is one of the other sheep that I have which is not of this fold. And that is exactly what happened to this blind man. When he was cast out Jesus went and found him, Vs 35...Isn't that exciting. (Read vs 35-38)

*Friends.* Jesus is out looking for people. The son of man has come to seek and to save those who are lost. And he wants you to be saved. And I pray that you will respond. I pray that you will receive Christ as your saviour.

Let us close with prayer