

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Eight

III. The Ministry of Healing (3): Healing a Man Blind from Birth (John 9:1-38)

Burden to Impart:

All men, like the man blind from birth, are born in spiritual darkness and ignorance of God. By receiving, believing and obeying the Lord's Word our "blindness" will be healed and we will see, know and love the Lord Jesus. Only He is able to give us true light.

Memory Verse: Jesus spoke to them saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

Facts to Teach:

1. If we carefully consider the Lord's healing ministry we will realize that the people that the Lord cured and the diseases that He healed also have spiritual and moral principles that apply to all men.
2. The Gospel of John records a very dramatic story of a man who was born blind. Every moment of his life, from his conception to adulthood, was spent in absolute darkness. He had never seen light or life, the world around him or beauty; not even once. He was **born** blind! In like manner, all men are born in spiritual ignorance and blindness, unable to perceive God or the things of God (Eph. 4:18; Acts 17:27).
3. As such a helpless one, he could not learn many things when he was young, neither could he work when he grew up. So he could only be a poor, miserable beggar.
4. The disciples mistakenly judged that this man must have been born blind because of some great sin that either he or his parents had committed. The Lord corrected their erroneous concept; this man's illness and problem was not given to him as a punishment from God for some sin; rather, God would use that very weakness and handicap as a means to glorify and express Himself.
5. The Lord healed him in a very strange way: He spat upon the ground, made clay with His spittle and put it on the blind man's eyes. The spittle from the Lord's mouth represents the Word of God coming to the blind man. Through the preaching of the gospel, God's Word is able to "open the eyes" (Acts 26:18) of those who are blind and in darkness, who do not know God or Christ.
6. The Lord only required one thing of the blind man once He had anointed his eyes with clay: he must go and wash. This tested the blind man's faith. If he did not believe in the Lord or obey His word he would not go wash himself. He would have remained blind, and even been upset with the Lord probably. However, he did believe in the Lord, so he obeyed the Lord's word and went away and washed and came back seeing!
7. Although he was persecuted by those who refused to believe in Jesus and was cast out of the synagogue and society by them, Jesus found him and revealed Himself to him: He was Jesus, the Son of God (John 9:35-38).
8. When we receive Jesus, we receive the "light of life" (John 8:12), the only "light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5). He gives us a new life and understanding so that we are no longer blind in darkness and ignorance concerning God and the spiritual things. We can now "see!"

The Ministry of the Lord Jesus

Lesson Eight

1. What did the Lord do to the man born blind when He healed him? (John 9:6)
2. What did the Lord tell the blind man to do in order to be healed? (John 9:7)
3. What does the "spittle" from the Lord's mouth represent? (Mat. 4:4).
4. What did the Jewish leaders do to the blind man after he was healed? (John 9:34)