

That's our task in this dark world. Cut holes in the darkness. Point blind people to the Light of the world who can open their eyes for God's glory. Tell them what Jesus has done for you. He can use you to do His works before night comes, when none of us can work.

Take away:

If Christ can use spit and dust, He can use ____! And He does!

4 times Christ healed blindness:

- Matthew 9 – He touched the eyes of 2 blind men.
- Mark 8 – Christ spit into the eyes of a man.
- Luke 18 – Christ simply said, "Receive your sight."
- John 9 – made mud (or clay)

Rest of the story

Notice his (healed man) descriptions of Jesus:

- A man who is called Jesus – 10-12
- He is a prophet – 13-17
- He is a man of God – 18-33
- He is the Son of God – 34-38

Early in Christ's public ministry: Sometime soon after His time in the wilderness where He was tempted by Satan.

Luke 4:16-21: And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.

*17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,
18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."*

20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: What Are We Doing?

Topic: Working with Christ

Sabbath restrictions:

- Cannot make clay.
- Anointing prohibited.
- Cannot heal except to save a life.
- Cannot put saliva on eyes.

John 9:1-5

1. The _____: verse 1
A man who was blind.

2. The _____ for the blindness: verses 2-5

At that time the rabbis taught that all suffering was directly traced back to acts of sin, either by the parents or the individual. So the disciple's question comes from Jewish thinking that would have been natural for them.

Disciples thoughts?:

- If his parents sinned, what a dirty trick. He did nothing wrong, and look what happens. This isn't fair.
- If it was his own sin, how was he born blind? (Some rabbis taught that a child could sin in the womb, and then pay the penalty all their life for that prenatal sin.)

Verse 2:

The disciples wondered who _____ the blindness. Was it the parent's sin, or prenatal activity?"

.....

Rabbis could easily base their teaching on Ex 20:5 *I the Lord am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*



Ezekiel 18: The word of the LORD came to me: ² "What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: 'The parents eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³ "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴ For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

²⁰ The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them.

Verse 3:

Jesus explains briefly that:

"...but this happened so that..." The word "but" sets up contrast. So, Jesus is saying ... The REASON this man is blind, is not because he or his parents sinned, instead (BUT, in contrast) he is blind for the PURPOSE of displaying God's mighty works in him.

Verse 4:

And then Christ takes the backward focus of the disciples and turns it to a forward look. They wondered, "How did he get that way?" and Jesus focuses on, "What can we do for him?"

In verse 4 He says, "Let's get to work." Actually, Jesus says ___ must get to work. We, meaning He and His disciples... And He says "must". This is the same Greek word found in 4:4 where Jesus "had" to go through Samaria.

We must do the works..., As long as it is day...night is coming.

"Get at it. We only have our lifetime to work, that's all we have and what we do for Him we do now or we don't do. Listen, my Christian friend, let me put it as simply as I can. Clean your life up. Get the garbage out of your life. Shape it up. Get the sin out, the worldliness, the compromise. Stop wasting your time flirting around with the world. There's no place in this Christian life for the things of the world." JM

3. The _____: verses 6-7

Observations:

- We are not told that the man asks for money.
- He hears "...who has sinned?" Is he curious why he is blind?
- To hear his blindness is God-ordained...give him chills?
- Hears a man spit. Make him flinch since others may have spit on him?
- With no words spoken, two mud pies applied to his eyes. Weird?
- Told to rinse off with no miracle promised.
- At no time was healing spoken of.

4. People are _____: verses 8-12

His family and neighbors are perplexed. A man's life is changed and people see the difference.

Is the world perplexed because of your relationship with Jesus Christ? It should be...

Wrap up:

Because of a verse that got my attention (2), verse 4 jumps out with "We've got work to do".

(Eph. 5:15-16), "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

Unknown

When he was twelve, Robert Louis Stevenson was looking out into the dark from his upstairs window, watching a man light the street lanterns. His governess came into the room and asked what he was doing. He replied, "I am watching a man cut holes in the darkness."