

Opening the Eyes of the Blind

In reading John's gospel, we come across an interesting account of a blind man healed by Jesus. The common opinion in that day was that if a person was physically impaired it was because He had sinned, or in this case that his parents had sinned. But Jesus refutes that here by acknowledging the fact that this man was born blind so that God could be glorified.

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." (John 9:1-3 NKJV)

God goes to great lengths to counteract not just the physical blindness in people but the spiritual blindness as well. Spiritual blindness, which is not as easily identified as physical blindness, is a tool of the great enemy of our souls, Satan the Devil. The god of this age is intent on preventing the light of the Gospel from shining into the hearts and lives of those who are perishing.

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV)

And while many well-meaning believers seek to carry the gospel to those who have never heard about God or are deceived about His true identity, there are many inside of the church who are just as blind and do not even realize it! Many modern day Pharisees attempt to motivate new believers to conform to their own standards and agendas rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to progressively conform them into the image of Christ.

Rather than celebrating the miracle of Jesus' healing of the blind man the Pharisees became upset that Jesus was breaking the law by healing on the Sabbath. They actually accused Jesus, the incarnate Son of God of not being from God because He broke the rules!

Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. (John 9:16 NKJV)

Now while that may seem preposterous at first, I must examine my own heart and admit that sometimes my first response to God's healing touch in a person's life can be very similar. In my self-righteousness I can easily become offended by a person's style of dress, their clothes or other nominal behaviors rather than being enthusiastic about the grace of God beginning a powerful work in their lives. When that happens, I must be quick to realize that my Savior overlooked a lot to love me into His Kingdom. I have been forgiven much, so I am able to love much and be a part of what God is doing in the lives of others. "There but for the grace of God go I" Thank you Lord for opening **my eyes** today.

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