

Daniel Perrin – Lesson 2: Signs of Divinity – Tuesday, October 8: The Healing of the Blind Man: Part 1

1. **John 9:1-16** – Consider the human element of this story
 - a. The weight of judgment THEY felt from that moment on as he grew up
 - The disciples expressed what EVERYONE thought
2. The Lesson asks: What did the disciples think was the cause of this man’s blindness, and how did Jesus correct their false beliefs?
 - a. **John 9:1-2** – *Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, WHO SINNED, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*
 - b. Option 1 – Inherited Consequence –
 - c. Option 2 is a BIZARRE WORLDVIEW — PRENATAL SIN
 - d. Satan inserts destructive thinking EVERYWHERE HE CAN to ruin everything he can— *even* in God’s church.
3. Jesus’ response: **VS. 3** – *Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. We can struggle and suffer — BY NO FAULT OF OUR OWN*
 - True: we CAN cause ourselves injury and painful consequences
 - AND we SHOULD PRAYERFULLY search out the cause of any problem
 - a. But **not every trouble is directly traceable to our own actions.**
 - We don’t need to feel judged by God BECAUSE we are suffering
 - AND we shouldn’t judge others too quickly because of what they are going through.
 - EVEN IF someone’s physical suffering is caused by their own decisions, we are to be compassionate
 - b. Jesus COMPLETELY BYPASSES the blame question
 - **V. 4-5** – *I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*
 - Focuses on the WORKS OF GOD to be revealed
 - By doing so, He instructs US to spend more time looking at the CHARACTER OF GOD
 - And LESS TIME trying to figure out who’s wrong? / who’s to blame?
 - Jesus then DEMONSTRATES that He didn’t come to debate the cause of this man’s suffering. What did He come to do?
 - c. After all Jesus tells us His mission in **Luke 4:18** (quoting **Isaiah 61**): *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*
 - No talk of BLAME here, but a plan of action to RESTORE the suffering
 - FOR US, Jesus extends the same mission in **Isaiah 58:6-10** — to relieve the suffering
4. What did Jesus DO?
 - a. **Vs. 6-7** – *When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva [How curious would YOU have been as you watched?]; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. ⁷ And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.*
 - b. Born with a non-functional visual system
 - Somewhere during prenatal development, the optic function stopped developing.
 - SO, no visual stimulus was received – No typical INPUT into the visual cortex of the Occipital lobe

- Without that input, the neural pathways that would have been formed in the brain for receiving and interpreting visual stimuli — would never have formed
 - As a result, the brain compensates, assigning different functions to use the capacity of that part of the brain.
 - There were certain functions of brain activity in sighted people that just NEVER EXISTED in this man
 - Jesus created neural pathways that DIDN'T EXIST — Not like repairing a broken arm
 - He uses CLAY to make a New Creation – EX NIHILO (out of nothing)
5. FROM **Romans 4:17-22** – God *gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did***; ¹⁸ *who, contrary to hope, in hope believed [IN OTHER WORDS / when all hope was gone / when there was no hope / beyond hope / past hope / hopeless], so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”* ¹⁹ *And not being weak in faith, he **did not consider his own body, already dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), and the **deadness of Sarah’s womb**.* ²⁰ *He **did not waver at the promise of God** through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,* ²¹ *and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.* ²² *And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”*
6. ENCOURAGEMENT for those of you who are suffering with NO HOPE
- a. **God’s Word is filled with promises** that God makes good to the suffering

John 16:33 – *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

Psalm 34:17-19 – *The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

¹⁸ *The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

¹⁹ *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

Revelation 21:4 – *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

Psalm 119:71 – *It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.*