

God declares that He desires to be known

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) 9:1 The Savior saw the man. The man did not see Him, for he had no capacity to do so. Jesus was the one to take the initiative.
- 2) Spiritually Blind- Dark in our understanding and dark in our heart (Eph. 4:18). Because of this blindness, without Jesus we cannot see the awfulness of our condition. (John 3:3)
- 3) 9:2 The blind man's condition created a theological dilemma in the minds of the disciples. Popular Jewish doctrine incorrectly stated that anyone's physical suffering is the direct result of personal sin.
- 4) Beware: We can be so occupied with issues of theology that we fail to live out the Gospel to people living in darkness! The disciples did not look at the man as an object of mercy but rather as a subject for a theological discussion. It is easier to discuss an abstract subject like "sin" than it is to minister to a concrete need in the life of a person.
- 5) 9:3 Jesus' answer becomes a rejection of the belief that the man's blindness was due either to his parents' sin or to his own sin. He simply says that the man's blindness offers an opportunity to show God's power, and that Jesus Himself has come to reveal that power.
- 6) The disciple's focus is backward- they are analyzing how the blind man came to be in his condition. Jesus concern is forward- putting God's power on display for the man's benefit.
- 7) God sovereignly chose to use this man's affliction for His own glory. This does not mean that God deliberately caused him to be born blind in order that, after many years, his glory could be displayed in the removal of the blindness. It does mean that God overruled the disaster of the blindness so that he might see the glory of God in the face of Christ, and seeing this work of God, might turn to the true Light of the World.
- 8) 9:4 In this case "Night" is Jesus' coming death and it becomes the limit of time set for Him to carry out the work of God.

- 9) 9:6 There are two purposes to why Jesus healed the man's blindness by making clay: 1) to test the faith of the blind beggar; 2) to display the power of God.
- 10) Jesus creates a new, functioning pair of eyes to replace those which had never seen.
- 11) The clay, while an irritation, is also the agent which encouraged the man to believe and to obey. What appears to be the source of irritation in your life is actually the thing bringing you closer to God.
- 12) 9:8 When God takes control of your life, other people around you see it. You are a witness to the power of God in your life. Other people are watching you, whether you know it or not..
- 13) 9:11 The greatest miracle was not the opening of his eyes but the opening of his heart to the Savior. It cost him everything to confess Jesus as the Son of God, but he was willing to do it.

GREEK WORDS USED

- Exegeomai**—(ex/coming out of) to consider out (aloud), unfold: - declare, tell
- Arche** (ar-khay')—source, or origin, a commencement, or chief one in authority:- beginning, corner, (at the) first (estate), power, principality, rule
- Blepo** (blep'-o)—to look at:- behold, look (on, to), perceive, see, sight

FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Something very specific in this man's profession should be noted:

There is a GREAT temptation to cushion the truth as to who had accomplished the work in the life of this individual.

First and foremost – it's the work of what Christ Jesus has done in his life that he is quick to recognize. That particular name "Jesus" -the name most hated of all to the Jews at this time, and yet he boldly confessed it. The name which today still causes individuals to recoil at its mention is the very name we must be first to announce.