

Lesson 14

A Man Born Blind Receives His Sight

John 9:1-41

1. A. According to Exodus 34:1-7, did the disciples think they had a good theological reason to ask the question concerning the blind man's parents?

Exodus 34:1-7

- 1 The LORD said to Moses, "Cut two stone tablets like the former, that I may write on them the commandments which were on the former tablets that you broke.
- 2 Get ready for tomorrow morning, when you are to go up Mount Sinai and there present yourself to me on the top of the mountain.
- 3 No one shall come up with you, and no one is even to be seen on any part of the mountain; even the flocks and the herds are not to go grazing toward this mountain."
- 4 Moses then cut two stone tablets like the former, and early the next morning he went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, taking along the two stone tablets.
- 5 Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with him there and proclaimed his name, "LORD."
- 6 Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity,
- 7 continuing his kindness for a thousand generations, and forgiving wickedness and crime and sin; yet not declaring the guilty guiltless, but punishing children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation for their fathers' wickedness!"

- B. What does Jesus reply in this chapter (John 9)?

2. A. Read Job chapters 1 and 2, according to these chapters, is personal suffering always traceable to sin? Give verses to prove your answer.

Job chapters 1 and 2

Chapters 1

- 1 In the land of Uz there was a blameless and upright man named Job, who feared God and avoided evil.
- 2 Seven sons and three daughters were born to him;
- 3 and he had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred she-asses, and a great number of work animals, so that he was greater than any of the men of the East.
- 4 His sons used to take turns giving feasts, sending invitations to their three sisters to eat and drink with them.
- 5 And when each feast had run its course, Job would send for them and sanctify them, rising early and offering holocausts for every one of them. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and blasphemed God in their hearts." This Job did habitually.
- 6 One day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, Satan also came among them.
- 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "Whence do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming the earth and patrolling it."
- 8 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job, and that there is no one on earth like him, blameless and upright, fearing God and avoiding evil?"

9 But Satan answered the LORD and said, "Is it for nothing that Job is God-fearing?

10 Have you not surrounded him and his family and all that he has with your protection? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock are spread over the land.

11 But now put forth your hand and touch anything that he has, and surely he will blaspheme you to your face."

12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand upon his person." So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

13 And so one day, while his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother,

14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the asses grazing beside them,

15 and the Sabeans carried them off in a raid. They put the herdsmen to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

16 While he was yet speaking, another came and said, "Lightning has fallen from heaven and struck the sheep and their shepherds and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

17 While he was yet speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, seized the camels, carried them off, and put those tending them to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

18 While he was yet speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother,

19 when suddenly a great wind came across the desert and smote the four corners of the house. It fell upon the young people and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

20 Then Job began to tear his cloak and cut off his hair. He cast himself prostrate upon the ground,

21 and said, "Naked I came forth from my mother's womb, and naked shall I go back again. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD!"

22 In all this Job did not sin, nor did he say anything disrespectful of God.

Chapters 2

1 Once again the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

2 And the LORD said to Satan, "Whence do you come?" And Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming the earth and patrolling it."

3 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job, and that there is no one on earth like him, faultless and upright, fearing God and avoiding evil? He still holds fast to his innocence although you incited me against him to ruin him without cause."

4 And Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has will he give for his life.

5 But now put forth your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and surely he will blaspheme you to your face."

6 And the LORD said to Satan, "He is in your power; only spare his life."

7 So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with severe boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

8 And he took a potsherd to scrape himself, as he sat among the ashes.

9 Then his wife said to him, "Are you still holding to your innocence? Curse God and die."

10 But he said to her, "Are even you going to speak as senseless women do? We accept good things from God; and should we not accept evil?" Through all this, Job said nothing sinful.

11 Now when three of Job's friends heard of all the misfortune that had come upon him, they set out each one from his own place: Eliphaz from Teman, Bildad from Shuh, and Zophar from Naamath. They met and journeyed together to give him sympathy and comfort.

12 But when, at a distance, they lifted up their eyes and did not recognize him, they began to weep aloud; they tore their cloaks and threw dust upon their heads.

13 Then they sat down upon the ground with him seven days and seven nights, but none of them spoke a word to him; for they saw how great was his suffering.

B. In what way do you consider that Job's suffering was both for the glory of God and the strengthening of Job's own soul?

3. What phrases did Jesus use to emphasize the importance to Him of finishing God's work?

4. Give the different aspects of teaching as they apply to our work for God from the following passages:

A. Acts 20:24

Acts 20:24

24 Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God's grace.

B. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it,

11 for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.

12 If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw,

13 the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire (itself) will test the quality of each one's work.

14 If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage.

15 But if someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire.

C. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

9 Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away.

10 For we must all appear ⁷ before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

D. Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

E. 2 Timothy 2:4-6

2 Timothy 2:4-6

4 To satisfy the one who recruited him, a soldier does not become entangled in the business affairs of life.

5 Similarly, an athlete cannot receive the winner's crown except by competing according to the rules.

6 The hardworking farmer ought to have the first share of the crop.

5. Why does Jesus keep healing on the Sabbath when it upsets the Pharisees so much? CCC #2173

2173 The Gospel reports many incidents when Jesus was accused of violating the Sabbath law. But Jesus never fails to respect the holiness of this day. He gives this law its authentic and authoritative interpretation: "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." With compassion, Christ declares the Sabbath for doing good rather than harm, for saving life rather than killing. The Sabbath is the day of the Lord of mercies and a day to honor God. "The Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

6. A. In the course of this investigation, what is the man able to see about Jesus (vs.12, 17, 25, 27, 30, 33, 36, 38)?

John 9: 12, 17, 25, 27, 30, 33, 36, 38

12 And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

17 So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

25 He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

27 He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

30 The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes.

33 If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything."

36 He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

38 He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

B. What personal lessons do you learn from his progressive understanding of Jesus?

7. List about seven comments or questions of the Pharisee in their examination of this Sabbath day's healing. Give verses.

8. A. Why did Jesus say the Pharisees would have no sin if they were blind?

B. Why did their sin remain because they said, "We see"?

9. In what way does John 9:41 apply to people today? (compare Luke 8:18, Mark 8:18, Matthew .13:12)

John 9:41

41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

Luke 8:18

18 Take care, then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away."

Mark 8:18

18 Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear? And do you not remember,

10. A. How has this chapter illustrated vs. 39?

John 9: 39

39 Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

B. What blindness is the result of sin? (vs.39-41)

John 9: 39-41

39 Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?"

41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

C. How do guilty people “see” again?