



DATE: January 17, 2010

TEXT: John 9: 1-12

TITLE: "John XXV: The Will of God"

For the past 6 weeks we have been studying the birth narrative in the Gospel of Luke.

This morning we are returning to our study of the Gospel of John. Allow me to refresh our memory of where we are in our study of this Gospel. Jesus is in Jerusalem. He is at the Festival of the Booths. It is more than likely October of the year 29 AD. He is 6 months from his crucifixion and resurrection.

I said at the beginning of this study that the Gospel of John is based around "I am sayings.

In chapter 8 of John Jesus issues 2 "I am" sayings. In verse 12 Jesus says....

**12When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

We saw the wonderful promise that Jesus will be the light of our lives. Jesus will give us guidance and direction.

But in my last sermon in John we saw possibly the highest statement of Jesus ever proclaimed. In *John 8: 58* Jesus states...

**58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"**

We saw last month that this is Jesus taking on the very name of God. God himself has said his name is "Yahweh" Which means "I am." Jesus is saying... "I am Yahweh... I am the great I Am... I am God." The Jews understood what he was saying... they tried to stone him to death... it was blasphemy... he was claiming divinity.

Jesus is now apparently leaving town with his disciples. On his way out of town he meets a blind man. The entire 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of John deals with this blind man. Jesus returns to his theme that he is the "Light of the world."

Before I look at lessons from our text I want to give one preliminary observation. Notice in this entire chapter... we never discover the name of this man. An entire chapter of the gospel of John is devoted to a man who we do not know his name. The thought is this.... God uses unknown people, like you and me, to do great things in his Kingdom. Over the years I have had the opportunity to hear some "Big name" speakers. I have heard Billy Graham. I have heard John MacArthur. I have heard Charles Colson. I have heard a number of times Joni Erickson. I

have heard R.C. Sproul... I have taken a couple of classes from him. I have heard Malcolm Mugridge.... who was the best speaker of them all But let me tell you... these people have not made a great impact in my life. You have made far more impact. You sharing with me the truths God is teaching you. No one in this church is famous. But we all impact each other lives. We do not have famous parents or grandparents... but they impact our lives more than anyone else with the Gospel of Christ. God uses us for His Kingdom.

Let us now turn to the lesson our text teaches us this morning. Have you ever wondered why events occur in our lives? I am sure each and every one of us have wondered why this difficult situation happened to us. Why this illness... why this death of a loved one... why this tragedy. Our text this morning give us an answer. Let me say this at the beginning.... it is not an easy answer... but it is God's answer.

**Lesson # 1** All things do indeed work together for good for those who love the Lord God.

We see this in the question of the disciples in *John 9: 1-3*

**1As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"**

**3"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.**

There was a common belief that the ills of a man were caused by sin... either the sin of the person himself or the sins of parents. This man was born blind.... the common thought was it was the sins of the parents that had caused this tragedy.

Here is the problem with this belief system... can you imagine the guilt and the blame it would cause. Every person faces difficult times.... can you imagine always blaming yourself for the struggles of your children or yourself.

This is why I hate the "Health and Wealth" theology that you hear on T.V. upon occasion. You hear people say... "If you just act in obedience God will bless you and give you ten fold in return.... and if you just have enough faith you will be healed" I hate that... again that place blame on individuals if a person is not healed that means they do not have enough faith. That means God imposed a earthquake on Haiti for there sins. That is not true.

Why does bad things happen to good people? Why does tragedy occur to good Christian people? Because we are not yet home! We are not in heaven. We are in a fallen sinful world.

Brokenness and sinfulness rule this world... and that will be true until we leave this world or until Christ comes again.

But let me quickly add this truth... because of Jesus Christ... and because we are His children.... we have gained victory in the midst of the brokenness. Allow me to read selected verses from *Romans 8*...

**28**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.....

**31**What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**32**He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?.....

**35**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I preach on this text at almost every funeral for a reason... I love it. It tells us we are victorious. Notice it does not promise us freedom from struggles. We do experience “trouble and hardship and persecution and famine and nakedness and danger and sword.” We experience all the tragedies of life..... but we win an overwhelming victory. And overwhelming victory.

Why was this man born blind? Not because of the sin of his parents. Not because of his

own sin.... he was born blind to give honor and praise to God.... and that should occur regardless if he was healed or not.

As I mentioned earlier I have heard Joni Erickson Tada a number of times. This is a woman who as a teenager had a terrible accident and has been a quadriplegic most of her life. Kim and I heard her 2 to 3 years ago at a conference and she told us that she no longer prays for God to heal her on this side of heaven. She has come to realize that God is glorified more by her paralysis than by her health.

Are you at that point? I heard this read this statement this week as I was preparing this sermon....

**You won't know Jesus is all you need until you know Jesus is all you've Got... and only then will you know that Jesus is all you need.**

- Are you willing to be blind for the glory of God?
- Are you willing to be a failure for the glory of God?
- Are yo willing to be poor for the glory of God?
- are you willing to face cancer for the glory of God?
- are you willing to be seen as a religious fanatic for the glory of God?

Yes, we live in a fallen, pain filled world. Yeas that world will touch our lives. Do not blame other people. Do not blame yourself. Do not blame God... be used by God to glorify His name.

**Lesson # 2** In order to receive the blessings of God we must act in obedience. *John 9:6,7*

**6**Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. **7**"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

This is kind of gross. Jesus spit into a bowl filled with dirt and rubbed the mud on the man's face and said go to this pool. Why did he do this. Why not just heal him? On other occasions he healed the blind instantly with just a word. Why this mud thing?

Jesus required a act of obedience from this man. It is stressed in the text. The Pool of Siloam... it means 'sent.' Jesus sent him to act in obedience. I believe if he did not act in obedience he would not have been healed. He needed to act in obedience. Blessing are received in obedience of God. Understanding what I am saying.....God does not automatically heal or answer prayers because of actions of obedience... but God does bless based on actions of obedience. God may not heal... as in the case of Joni Erickson... but, as a result of her obedience, god has richly blessed her life. God may not heal, or prevent tragedy... but He will give understanding and life and blessing in the midst of tragedy.

Think for a moment of the nation of Israel in the Exodus. They miraculously escaped

slavery from the Egyptians. They walked through the Red Sea... and journey to the land that was promised them by God. This only took a few months. Moses sent men over the river Jordan to explore the land that God had promised them. Twelve men went out and returned to Moses. Ten of the men gave a negative report.... they reported might armies and giants in the land and said crossing the river Jordan was impossible. Two men... Caleb and Joshua said indeed there were giants and armies against them... but God had promised them the land.... move forward they recommended. The people heard the reports, rebelled against Moses and Aaron and refused to cross the river. This is how the story ended... *Numbers 14: 20-24*

**20 The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, 22 not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times- 23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. 24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me whole- heartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it**

Notice these people were forgiven of their sin... but still suffered for their act of disobedience.

We need to act in obedience to receive the richness that Christ desires to give us. Not

freedom from difficulties.. The ‘peace that passes all understanding’ and the eternal life awaiting us. One final quick lesson

**Lesson # 3** Disobedience is a choice often in the face of facts and truth. *John 9: 8-9*

**8**His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" **9**Some claimed that he was.

**Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."**

These people had seen this man every day for year after year, decade after decade.... but they made the choice to not believe him. Disobedience is always a choice. I know I am biased but I believe to deny the act of God in creation is ludicrous. I believe to deny the peace of God that is seen only in Christians is purposely chosen blindness. Brit Hume of Fox news made the statement that the path of forgiveness and peace for Tiger Woods is through Christianity. He is being viciously attacked for that thought. But we know it is true. Jesus Christ is the path of forgiveness and peace... the only path.

People chose blindness... spiritual blindness. They desire to ignore the truth of Christ even when it is clearly evident.

God works for the good of those who love him. Let us chose to love Him and follow

him... wherever He will lead... even in paths of difficulty and struggles.

AMEN