

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2013 ..... John 1:1-18 ..... God Revealed
- 2) 08 Sept ..... John 1:19-51 ..... Jesus Identified
- 3) 15 Sept ..... John 2:1-25 ..... Authority Acknowledged
- 4) 22 Sept ..... John 3:1-36 ..... Salvation Offered
- 5) 29 Sept ..... John 4:1-38 ..... The Power to Give Life
- 6) 06 Oct ..... John 4:39-54 ..... The Power to Save
- 7) 13 Oct ..... John 5:1-47 ..... The Power to Heal
- 8) 20 Oct ..... John 6:1-71 ..... The Power to Meet Needs
- 9) 27 Oct ..... John 7:1-52 ..... Asking Questions About Jesus
- 10) 03 Nov ..... John 7:53-8:59 ..... Wondering About Judgment
- 11) 10 Nov ..... John 9:1-41 ..... **Doubting Jesus' Power****
- 12) 17 Nov ..... John 10:1-42 ..... Feeling Insecure?
- 13) 24 Nov ..... John 11:1-57 ..... Dealing with Death

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus heals one more person on the Sabbath and further irritates the establishment. The healing of this blind man is the 6<sup>th</sup> of 7 signs John records in his Gospel:
  1. Turning water into wine in Cana .....2:1-11
  2. Healing an official's son in Capernaum.....4:46-54
  3. Healing at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath .....5:1-18
  4. Feeding the 5,000 .....6:5-14
  5. Walking on the water .....6:16-21
  - 6. Healing a man on the Sabbath who was born blind ... 9:1-7**
  7. Raising Lazarus from the dead in Bethany .....11:1-45
- Again, why did John only pick these 7 signs out of 10,000s he could have chosen from?
- Can't Satan duplicate these wonders? We have all heard stories of resurrections & people walking on water, BUT are they verifiable?

Passage	Comments
Historical Note	<p>According to the ETB Teacher's manual, the Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century considered all diseases and disabilities to be traceable to an individual's specific sin, not just to the general presence of sin in the world. For example, they held that an unborn child could commit sin in the womb or that the parents sinned, resulting in a child's birth defect.</p> <p>This was part of the Retributive Justice principle (aka the "Deuteronomic formula"), where good people are blessed and the wicked are punished for their deeds. We see this principle erroneously applied throughout the Book of Job by Job's friends.</p> <p>Thus, the disciples wanted to know whose sin caused this man's blindness.</p>
John 9:1-12	<p><b>Who Sinned?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv3. Jesus stated that direct sin was not involved in this man's blindness. Just like many birth defects, such as Down Syndrome, are not due to direct sin. God makes the blind blind for reasons of His own.....cf Ex 4:11</li> <li>• vv4-5. "We must work the works of God while it is day."</li> </ul> <p><b>Principle – Know the times we are in and how God is working or not working to better accomplish God's will for our day and age.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Hebrews 1:1 God works in "sundry times and in divers manners"</li> <li>♦ 1Chron 12:32 "The sons of Issachar understood the times, with knowledge of what God's people should do"</li> <li>♦ Do we still have Apostles and Prophets today? Is Scripture still growing? We must acknowledge God is working differently today than how He did in the 1<sup>st</sup> century and work within those different parameters</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv6-7. Jesus put a mud pack on the blind man's eyes and told the man to go wash it off. What was the significance of this 2-part healing process?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Also see Mark 7:32-35 where Jesus heals a deaf/mute by touching both the man's ears and tongue</li> <li>♦ Also see Mark 8:22-25 where Jesus healed a blind man by first "spitting on his eyes", which produced a blurry image, then Jesus laid His hands on the man's eyes to complete the healing. Mark seemed to use this incident to show the blindness of the Apostles, where they had an initial vague image of Jesus before Jesus more fully opened their eyes</li> <li>♦ According to Barnes' commentary, the Jews regarded spittle as medicinal for diseased eyes, and that they forbade the preparation and use of medicines on the Sabbath. Jesus, therefore, by making this spittle, showed that their manner of keeping the Sabbath was superstitious. In essence, He showed that their interpretation of the law of the Sabbath was contrary to the intention of God.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9:13-34	<p><b>Validating and Verifying the Truth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Jewish leaders grilled the blind man and his parents to <b>validate and verify this miracle</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jesus may have started off His ministry in secrecy ("don't tell anyone"), but once He got going His healings and miracles were for all to see &amp; believe</li> <li>♦ Even the Apostles worked notable miracles that were apparent to all, and cannot be denied .. Act 4:16</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Counterfeit Miracles	<p>Satan often duplicates the works of God to deceive, if it were possible, God's very elect. And miracles are no exceptions, from 1<sup>st</sup> deceiving Eve with a talking serpent in Genesis 3, to matching many of the miracles Moses performed in Egypt (Exodus 7-8), to deceptive miracles performed in the Book of Revelation (Rev 13)</p> <p>B.B. Warfield, in his book "Counterfeit Miracles" pg 186, records several incidences of "withered hands" being healed by 1) Faith healers; 2) Roman Catholic priests; 3) Mesmerism/hypnotism; 4) Imagination; and by 5) Outright deception</p> <p>But God allows Satan to only go so far. Warfield also echoed what Augustine taught that the connection of <u>alleged miracles with erroneous doctrines</u> invalidates their claim to be genuine works of God (Ibid, pg 53)</p>
9:35-41	<p><b>Do You Believe?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv35-38. The once-blind man now truly believed in his Healer. Would he have believed if he wasn't healed?</li> <li>• vv39-41. Jesus came to give spiritual sight for those willing to believe and to blind those who are not willing to believe (or harden their hearts as He did to Pharaoh)</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- The blind man receives both his physical sight and his spiritual sight – but the religious leaders became blinded to the truth because of their willful ignorance.

**NEXT WEEK: John 10:1-42.** The Jews asked Jesus to tell them plainly if He is the Christ, and Jesus replies back "I told you already." Willful ignorance is a killer.

**God has no phone – But I still talk to Him**  
**God doesn't use Twitter – But I still follow Him**  
**God is not on Facebook – But He is still my Friend**