

**Introduction:** This week I found myself thinking about the difference between vision and seeing. I read an article in the sports pages in 1975 about this difference that has stuck with me. Competitors on the Women's Tennis Association tour said Bill Jean Moffat King's vision made her the number one tennis player from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s. She had very thick lenses in her glasses and her corrected eyesight was less than 20-20. But she had trained herself to pick up the spin on the ball before it crossed the net. Combining this gift of vision with experience gained from thousands of hours of playing, she could quickly get to the best place to return the volley so as to hit a winning shot. \*\*\* Vision is more than just seeing. Vision allows people to see with focus and understanding to come up with a plan that will produce a good result. Very few people have this gift, and ultimately it is a gift from God. \*\*\* Through the prophet Isaiah, The Covenant God of Israel, Yahweh, chastened His people because they were 'ever seeing, but never perceiving' (6:9, NIV). Jesus applied this truth to His parable of the sower of seed on four kinds of hearts to explain why He used parables (Matthew 13:15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10). John wrote that just before Jesus entered Jerusalem the Sunday before Passover, even after all the miracles He did, many did not believe in Him for the same reason (12:40). The book of Acts closes with this truth (28:26-27). Finally, Paul wrote that many in Israel still lacked vision about Jesus some thirty years after He ascended to His Father's Throne (Romans 11:8). \*\*\* The only way to see with perception – to have vision – is to receive Jesus as The One who IS 'The Light of the world'. In His Light, we see light (Psalm 36:9). \*\*\* Let us now pray to be given vision as we look into our passages this morning.

**I. The works of God are revealed in 'The Light of the world' as He heals a man born blind, and confusion results over his testimony about the man Jesus. (John 9:1-11)**

- A. Not all misfortune is due to sin, but the works of God are revealed in His Son who is 'The Light of the world'. (Verses 1-5)
1. After passing by, He [Jesus] saw a man blind from birth. (Verse 1)  
**Jesus saw:** The word means to see with knowledge, to perceive – He saw his blindness with vision.
  2. His disciples asked Him, 'Master! Who sinned, this man or his parents, that blind he would have been born?' (Verse 2)  
**Disciples assume:** The disciples, and most people, assumed that bad things are always the result of sin!
  3. Jesus replied, 'Neither this man sinned nor his parents, but that they might be revealed, the works of God in him'. (Verse 3)  
**Revelation:** God can, and does, reveal His great and gracious works every time He heals people who suffer without having sinned – consider Job (2:6-10; 42:10-17).
  4. 'It is necessary for Me (lit. 'us') to work the works of Him having sent Me, while it is being day; night is coming when no man is able to work'. (Verse 4)  
**Day and night:** Good is done in daylight, darkness covers evil deeds (Proverbs 4:18-19; John 3:19).
  5. 'As long as in the world I may be being, Light I am being of the world'. (Verse 5)  
**Light:** Earlier, Jesus made the second of His 'I AM' statements: 'I AM The Light of the world' (8:12).
- B. Jesus took three actions and gave two commands to a blind man to open his eyes, and people are confused so the man testifies to the man Jesus. (Verses 6-11)
1. These (words) having spoke, He spat on the ground, He made clay from the spittle, and He anointed (rubbed) the clay on his eyes. (Verse 6)  
**Three actions:** First, Jesus sent saliva to the ground; second, He made clay; third, He put it on the eyes.
  2. He said to him, 'Thou must be going, thou must be washing in the pool of Siloam (sent)'. (Verse 7a)  
**Two commands:** After Jesus acts to prepare for healing, He commands the blind man to go and wash.
  3. Therefore, he went and he washed and he came seeing! (Verse 7b)  
**Obeded and healed:** The blind man obeyed in faith. He returned, eyes open, seeing for the first time.

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4. Then the neighbors and those seeing him in the past, that beggar he was being, they were saying, 'Not this is being he sitting and begging?' (Verse 8)  
**Neighbor reaction:** The question expects an answer: Yes, this is the one begging for many years.
5. Some were saying, 'This is being him'; others were saying, 'No way, but he is being like him'. (Verses 9a-b)  
**Yes and no:** The discussion following the question shows a difference of opinion among those who knew the man born blind.
6. This one was saying, 'I, even I, am being'. (Verse 9c)  
**Testimony:** He is emphatically testifying that he is the one who was born blind, but now he sees!
7. Therefore, they were saying to him, 'How then were opened of thee, the eyes?' (Verse 10)  
**How:** This is the big question. People born blind just don't suddenly see.
8. This one replied, 'The man being called Jesus (Savior), clay He made and He anointed (rubbed) my eyes; and He said to me, "Thou must be going to the pool of Siloam and thou must be washing"; then, having gone and having washed, I received sight'. (Verse 11)  
**The Man Jesus:** Jesus worked a miracle of giving sight to a man born blind. At this point, the man born blind considers Jesus to be a man with a God-given gift of healing. He does not yet know Him as The One from God in whom is The Life that is The Light of men (John 1:4).

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**II. The Pharisees repudiate Jesus as a Sabbath violator, but the healed man calls Him a prophet, then he trusts Jesus as The Son of Man, worshipping Him; David seeks to dwell in the presence of his Savior. (John 9:12-17, 35-38; Psalm 27:1-4)**

- A. The Pharisees investigate the healing Jesus did on the Sabbath, but the man calls Him a prophet. (John 9:12-17)
1. They said to him, 'Where is being this one?'; he is saying, 'Not I have known'; they are bringing him to the Pharisees – the formerly blind. (Verses 12-13)  
**Where:** They asked where Jesus is. When he could not tell, they took him to their spiritual leaders.
  2. But it was being the Sabbath day in which day Jesus made the clay and He opened of him the eyes. (Verse 14)  
**Sabbath question:** At least two other times Jesus healed on the Sabbath: The man with the shriveled hand in the synagogue (Mark 3:1-6), the lame man at the sheep gate (John 5:1-11). Now Jesus – 'The Light of the world' – opens a blind man's eyes on the Sabbath.

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3. Again the Pharisees were also asking him how he received his sight; he said to them, 'He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I am seeing'. (Verse 15)  
**Testimony:** His testimony to the Pharisees of the miracle is shorter than the one to his neighbors, but he still gives glory to Jesus.
  4. Therefore, some of the Pharisees were saying, 'Not this man is being from God because the Sabbath he is not keeping'; but others were saying, 'How is being able a man, a sinner, miracles to do?'; and a 'schism' there was being in them. (Verse 16)  
**Pharisee 'schism':** As there was a schism in the people at Tabernacles if Jesus is The Prophet (7:41-44), now the Pharisees have a schism if Jesus is a Sabbath-breaking sinner
  5. They are saying to the blind man again, 'Thou, what thou are saying concerning him that opened the eyes of thee?'; but he said, 'A prophet he is being'. (Verse 17)  
**Prophet:** The formerly blind man has a stronger vision of Jesus, He is more than a man, He speaks for God as a prophet.
- B. Jesus finds the man who is now cast out, and asks him if he is believing in The Son of Man, when Jesus discloses Himself, the man professes belief and worships Jesus. (John 9:35-38)
1. Jesus heard they had cast him out, having found him, He said, 'Thou, are thou believing in The Son of Man?' (Verse 35)  
**Son of Man:** Jesus most often used this incarnational title for Himself. It is from Daniel's vision: one like 'The Son of Man' came to the 'Ancient of Days' to receive an eternal kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14).
  2. This one answered and said, 'Who is He being, Lord, that I might believe in Him?' (Verse 36)  
**Desire:** The formerly blind man desires to know the identity of Daniel's Son of Man and to believe in Him as a way of life.
  3. Jesus said to him, 'Both thou have seen Him and He talking with thee, that One is being'. (Verse 37)  
**Me:** Jesus is telling this man whose eyes He opened that He IS The Son of Man!
  4. And he was saying, 'I am believing, Lord'; and he worshipped Him. (Verse 38)  
**Worship:** His vision of Jesus is complete: More than a man, more than a prophet, He is The Lord, God Himself. By faith, he falls before Him and worships Him with all he is.  
**Application:** Because The Holy Spirit has opened our eyes to receive Jesus by faith, may we commit to live together in faith as a way of life, doing all we do with a sense of worship to God through Jesus.
- C. David professes Yahweh as his Light and Salvation, testifies to ongoing faith, and seeks to always dwell in His presence. (Psalm 27:1-4)
1. Yahweh my Light and my Salvation / whom will I fear? // Yahweh my stronghold of Life / whom will I dread? (Verse 1)  
**Light and Life:** Because Yahweh (as Jesus: Salvation) is David's Light and Life, he will fear nothing.
  2. When draws near upon me wicked to eat my flesh / my adversaries and my enemies against me / they have stumbled and they have fallen. (Verse 2)  
**Testimony:** David says when wicked adversaries and enemies came on him to devour him, they fell. He leaves unstated that it was Yahweh who did this.
  3. If encamp against me a host / I will not fear – my heart // If arise against me war / in this, I am trusting. (Verse 3)  
**Always trusting Yahweh:** Even when his safety and security is greatly tested, David declares his heart will not fear and he will always be trusting (in Yahweh).
  4. One thing I have asked of Yahweh, that I will seek / that I will dwell in the house of Yahweh all the days of my life // to perceive the pleasantness of Yahweh / and to enquire in His Temple. (Verse 4)  
**Seek Presence:** David needs one thing, to be forever in the presence of his Covenant God so he has a vision of His delightful grace and that he may ask God in faith according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).

**Those Jesus saves seek to be with Him**

**Conclusion:** Jesus IS 'The Light of the world' who came to reveal God's gracious works by opening the eyes of people born blind; however some oppose Him and refuse to believe He is God from God. But, those to whom Jesus gives vision by opening their eyes, they are able to perceive He IS The Son of Man and worship Him as God's Light sent to them for salvation.

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