

Born blind – Light of the World

HN/SS 29/05/05 am

Reading: John 9, I John 1:1-2:11

Study Text: John 9:4-5

Sing Psalms: 25:1-5; 25:8-12; 27:1-4; 119:105-108

The eyebrow path was so named for good reason – it was a narrow path stretching around the side of the steep mountain. A nurse regular walked along the eyebrow path from her home to the hospital. At night she needed a torch for there were no lights along the way.

It was monsoon season and had been raining all day. In the dim light of her torch she could see just a step or two ahead as she made her way home from work. But she knew the path well so was hurrying home on this wet night. Unknown to her a landslide had washed the path away just ahead. Anyone falling from this path would be badly injured – some had even died. As she approached this spot, hurrying along in the dim light from her torch, a flash of lightning suddenly lit up the sky as if it were day. She stopped in her tracks startled at seeing that just ahead the path disappeared. The lightning had saved her from disaster.

Jesus said *I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life* (8:12). He was about to demonstrate this wonderful truth to his disciples. Remember he was looking at a man who had been born blind, sitting by the roadside begging. His disciples found this mans plight interesting – they wanted to discuss the case with Jesus. But Jesus had compassion upon this poor man. He knew that he must demonstrate the love and power of God by opening this mans eyes.

But as with the other miracles recorded in this gospel there was an underlying spiritual truth being conveyed. In this case that truth is that Jesus is the light of the world. He not only gives light to the physically blind but to those who are spiritually blind. That includes you and me. We are all born blind. We are born into the darkness of sin and death.

Anyone walking in the ways of the world, seeking to satisfy self rather than please God, is walking in darkness. Anyone who hates his brother, is walking in the dark (I John 1:11). God is light. In him is no darkness at all. If we claim we know God but do not obey him and keep his commandments we are liars- we are still in darkness (I John 1:4).

Let us consider for a moment some of the qualities of light.

Reveals

Living in the city we rarely experience complete darkness. We have to close our eyes and try walking about to know what completeness darkness is like. This blind man knew that sort of darkness. He had never seen a tree – just bumped into them from time to time. Never seen the flowers or the birds, or the moon and the stars. How amazing it must have been for him to see these things for the first time after Jesus healed him.

Most amazing would have been to see people, people fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. I wonder if he found some sort of mirror to see himself – how amazing that would have been. But he would have seen some things he would rather not see – violence, lewdness and the like.

Today we can step into a lift with mirrors all around. We see ourselves from every aspect and are always trying to enhance our appearance. People spend hours in beauty parlours and in gyms trying to make themselves beautiful. But beauty is only skin deep remember. God sees beyond the skin – he looks upon our heart/soul. Time spent worshipping God, time spent reading his word, time spent in prayer will enhance your beauty in the sight of God.

People are eager to get full body scans these days. They want to see inside their body and find any disease that might be lurking there. If they can catch that cancer early they can treat it and live longer. So we have all this wonderful technology – X-rays, MRI, Cat scans, ultrasound and so on.

All this is wonderful, but you know something- none of this technology can reveal the condition of a person's soul. How can we discover if our soul is healthy? It is very important to know this don't you think. After all, the doctor cannot cure us from bitterness and hatred, from stealing and lying, from cheating, or from coveting. We need to scan our soul – and God has given us an amazingly simple but profoundly effective tool to do just that – the Bible.

Read his Word and you will find it scans your soul. Let the brilliant light of the gospel of Jesus Christ pierce your soul and the condition of your soul will be revealed. *We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place* (II Peter 1:19). Have you done a scan of your soul lately using this wonderful instrument called the Bible? What was the report that you got?

Not too bad you say – a pass. No worse than the next person you say – after all I am only human! Remember God is light in him is NO darkness at all. *If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves* (I John 1:8). Just one sin means we fail the test. Just one sin means death – unless treated.

The scan revealed just a little cancer – nothing to worry about. Is that what you would say?

Heals

In Africa thousands of people, especially children, die each year from drinking polluted water, water that is carrying deadly diseases. A friend of mine is teaching the people how to clean polluted water. Put a clear glass or plastic bottle of water out in the sun. After a few hours the sunlight will kill the deadly micro-organisms in that water. Hard to believe is it not. So simple but it is most effective he assured me. Many lives are saved by having clean drinking water.

The light of the world not only reveals sin but also heals from sin. The blood of Jesus Christ is powerful to cleanse us from all sin (I John 1:7). Yes it takes blood, make no mistake. Blood of course means sacrifice, it means death. Our sin is so deep in our soul; our soul is so riddled by sin, that there is no other cure. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can remove that sin and save us from death.

This is the greatest miracle in the history of the world. How awesome that Jesus could heal this man not just blind, but born blind. Such a work had never been heard of since the world began this man said of his healing (9:32). He would soon know the greater work of Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Son of God Jesus asked him (9:35). He believed and his heart was cleansed of sin. He could see more than just the things of this world. He could now see into eternity, he could now see the glories of heaven above. *God has shone into our hearts to give the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ* (II Corinthians 4:6).

Sin is their in your heart. Disregard it, let it grow and it will bring certain death, eternal death. The great physician, Jesus Christ, takes your sin seriously. He gave his life; he shed his blood, to bring you healing,

to bring you life. *If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteous – all our sin (1 John 1:9).*

Steals away

The light will not shine for long. There is the day and there is the night. *The night is coming when no one can work (9:4).*

The farmer is acutely aware of the day and the night. When the crop is ready he is out making use of every minute of light to get it harvested. He cannot be sure that the crop will still be there the next day. Rain, hail, wind, fire – many things could happen during the night to stop him from working the next day.

The harvest is ready Jesus told his disciples – the harvest of eternal life (4:35). Jesus was sent by the Father to do the works the Father gave him to do. He was sent to reveal the truth about life and death, about sin and judgment. He was sent to give life to those who the Father drew unto himself.

Jesus was acutely aware that his day was fast approaching – the day of his death and his return to his Father. He had told the people already *I shall be with you a little while longer and then I go to him who sent me (7:33)*. Every moment of every day he was focused solely upon the work that God had given him to do. *I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day.*

Should not we who are adopted sons of God also be fully focused on doing the works of God? Actually many MSS have ‘we’ instead of ‘I’ as the first word in verse 4. Without getting into a text-critical argument, it is clear that Jesus intended his disciples to continue the work he was doing, the work of declaring the truth that God has revealed. He prayed for them saying Father, *as you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world (17:18)*. He said of believers- *the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do because I go to my Father (14:12)*.

Our days on this earth are numbered. The night is coming. Are you walking in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ? *He who says he abides in him ought himself to walk just as he walked (1 John 2:6)*. Are you seeking each day to do the works of your heavenly Father? What are those works you ask? We have seen in this passage have we not, how Jesus had concern, he had compassion for this blind man. He wanted this man to see, not only with these eyes, but with spiritual eyes to see and believe in the Jesus Christ the Son of God.

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