

GODOSEE
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Text: John 9:1-38

Purpose: Although salvation is by faith alone, we have responsibilities to fulfill in the Kingdom. Sometimes we are called to go and do before we will be able to see.

INTRODUCTION: (Read Text) John 9:1-38 recounts a fascinating story that reads like a 21st century docudrama. It speaks of healing, obedience, persecution, excommunication, and redemption. In fact, there are at least ten places we could linger and gain insight.

I. Ten Possible Themes from the Passage

1. Is sickness caused by sin (verses 2-5)
2. We serve a Savior who seeks us out (verses 1 and 35)
3. The role of faith in miracles. No evidence of faith here. It appears to be a random act of kindness on the part of Jesus.
4. What constitutes work on the Sabbath. (verses 14-16)
5. The fine line between preserving orthodoxy and failing to see the Messiah in our midst (Encounter with Pharisees in verses 13-34)
6. Fear. The fear of the parents to support their own son against his adversaries. Fear is a crippling thing. (verses 18-23)
7. The tendency of skeptics to get hung up on the details and miss the simple good news. (Verse 26). What did he do and how did he do it?"
8. Laypersons have much to teach the professional minister (verses 30-34). The man teaches them a lesson on the fact that all good things come from God. We must remember that we don't know it all.
9. The progressive nature of his understanding of Jesus. He said he was a man in verse 11, a prophet in verse 17, and calls him Lord in verse 38. There is no doubt this is the main reason John includes this story. In chapter 8 Jesus says, "The father sent me" and declares "Before Abraham was, I am." In chapter 10 he calls himself the good shepherd. John adds this story to show that common people understood who Jesus was even if the Pharisees did not.
10. But the thing I want to emphasize from this passage is a truth that is reinforced three times in the passage: Verse 7 "So the man went, and washed, and came home seeing." Verse 11 "I went, I washed, and now I can see." Verse 15, "I washed and now I see."

II. Went, Washed, Came Back Seeing

- A. John tells us that Jesus came upon a blind man sitting in the streets of Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Although there were probably several blind beggars in the streets that day (for blindness was a common malady), for some reason unknown to us He had compassion on this man. He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva and put it on the blind man's eyes. (verse 6) I don't know, but I doubt that procedure would be endorsed by the American Medical Association. Anyone not feeling well this evening? Would you like

me to make some mud from spit and dirt and put it on you? We don't know why Jesus did this. Some speculate that it was a common belief that there was healing power in spit. I don't know. It is one of the many questions I have on a growing list that I will ask when I get to Heaven.

- B. Then in verse 7 Jesus says, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Once again, we don't know exactly why Jesus chose the pool of Siloam except that it was a prominent landmark in the city. Time does not permit me to tell you the details of Hezekiah's tunnel that was dug one third of a mile through solid rock to bring water from the Kidron valley into the city. The water from the well outside the city walls collected in a pool twenty feet by thirty feet. It was named the pool of Siloam because Siloam means "sent" and it signified the fact that the water was sent from the well into the city. The pool was a source of drinking water for the city dwellers. Once again, our sense of 21st century hygiene is repulsed by the idea that a man would wash his diseased eyes in the city's drinking water, but you have to understand Clorox had not invented disinfectant wipes at the time of this incident.
- C. I am struck with the simplicity of what the text says next in the second half of verse 7, "He went and washed and came home seeing." With those simple words the miracle is described. And that leads me to the title of this sermon "GODOSEE." I heard some students talking in the foyer and they were wondering about that title. One speculated that it was a Chinese dish that they serve at the Great China Buffet on Academy. Another thought it was the name of an Italian opera star –Victor Godosee. Still another thought it was a Greek word that meant "Short Sermon," but he admitted that was wishful thinking. So, what does Godosee mean? Precisely what it says. Go. Do. See.

III. GODOSEE

- A. The Bible is clear that our salvation is by faith alone. There is absolutely nothing we can do to merit a place in God's family. I love the phrase of the hymn, "Nothing in my hands I bring. Simply to the Cross I cling." We are saved by the meritorious work of Christ on the cross, period. When we, with repentance, seek God we learn that He has already been seeking us through His prevenient grace. He meets us where we are, forgives us, and makes us joint heirs with Christ. What an amazing gift.
- B. But, the Bible also tells us that we have responsibilities to fulfill once we are a child of God. Paul admonished us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Staying connected with God is not something we do on auto-pilot.
- C. The story before us from John 9 underscores our involvement in the interventions of God in our lives. Jesus could have healed the man by a simple touch. Sometimes He did that. But, here he tells the man to go and wash. And when he went and when he washed, he came back seeing. Sight followed action and obedience.
- D. The Christian life is filled with going and doing before there is any seeing. Everyone here knows what it is to hear the command of God to Go. Some of you packed up everything you owned and moved across the country to enroll in classes. Others of you traveled across town or in the case of online students went across the room to the computer on the dining room table. Regardless, there has been some going to get where

you are tonight and let me assure you if you are going to finish this degree it will take some doing. The faculty will see to that!

- E. You want to feel close to God? It will take some going (to the Word and to Church and to books written by the great thinkers who help us understand God.) It will take some doing (studying, worshiping, meditating.)
- F. You want to see your family and neighbors won to Christ? It will take some going (to God in prayer and to your neighbor's door.) It will take some doing (building friendships, earning the right to witness, sharing the good news of the gospel.)
- G. You want to live a life holy and blameless before the Lord? It will take some going and some doing like turning the other cheek and following the Golden rule; and it will require that you refrain from going some places and doing some things.
- H. In short, if you want to be delivered from your blindness, whatever it is (health, finances, ignorance, marital relationships, reconciliation with your kids) It will take some going and some doing.

Conclusion: I will have to confess that my personality is one that likes the order to be, see, go, and then do. I like to see what is ahead. I like all the details in advance and all the rationale in place. Sometimes God provides that and when He does, I have no problem going. BUT, it is when he first says go and then do without my being able to see all that is ahead that I have the greatest difficulty. This passage reminds me that sometimes in God's economy it is necessary to go in blind obedience, to do that which may not seem logical, and only after being obedient do I see what it is God has in mind.

Go. Do. See. The blind man went, washed, and came back seeing. We will see God at work in our lives and in our world when we grasp that though we are saved by faith alone, a lot of what happens in our Christian walk thereafter depends on our going and on our doing in obedience to the directives of God. When life gets tough during your days of education (and they will) remember the words of this great miracle in John chapter nine, "He went, he washed, he came back seeing." Go. Do. See. Don't become weary in going and doing. Hang in there. The blindness will turn to light.