



Sermon Study Guide

The Jesus You Need: The Healer
John 9:1-7
Sunday, February 17, 13

Introduction

- To say that Jesus is the “healer” is to say more than that God puts a band aid on our wounds and sends us back into the world. He gives us a new heart.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*
- In almost every chapter of John we are confronted with humanity’s need for new life.
- Read John 9:1-7

A Reason for Suffering (9:1-5)

- The disciples ask what may seem like a silly question in verse 2. It was misguided, but not silly.
- Jews in Jesus’ day had a good reason to link sin to suffering:
 - God warned that if Israel fell into idolatry, generations would be punished (Exo. 20:5).
 - God did not just punish David for his sin, he punished his whole house (2 Sam. 12).
 - In our own experience, we see that our sins affect other people (drug abuse, divorce).
 - There are many biblical examples of a specific sin leading to a specific instance of suffering (Gen. 3; John 5:14; Acts 5).
- We can be sympathetic to the disciples’ question in verse 2, but they were still mistaken. The Bible cautions us to link a specific sin to a specific trial.
 - Consider Job. He suffered to show the sincerity of his faith in God.
 - Consider Paul (2 Cor. 12). He suffered to show his humility before God.
 - Consider the blind man of John 9. He suffered so that in his healing it would be clear that Jesus is the light of the world.
- What about your suffering?
 - Maybe your suffering is the direct result of a specific sin. If you think this is the case, confess, repent, and seek forgiveness.
 - Maybe your suffering is to show the sincerity of your faith, like Job.
 - Maybe your suffering is to show humility in your life, like Paul.
 - Maybe your suffering is to show that Jesus is the light of the world.
 - Ruth suffered, unaware that as a result, she would be an ancestor of King David and Jesus.
 - The blind man suffered, unaware that as a result he would be the occasion of a miraculous healing.

A Reason for Hope (9:6-7)

- We have to admit this is a strange way to heal.
- Jesus is making a point: in order to truly see, we have to be re-created.
- Remember the Jews that Jesus met. They *saw* Jesus, but did not have eyes of faith.
 - Some were impressed with his miracles but thought of him as nothing more than an earthly king (John 6:15).
 - Others knew he was claiming to be God, and wanted to kill him (John 5:18).
- Why didn't they truly see Jesus? Because they were dead in their sins, blind to God, and in need of being re-created.
 - Gen. 2:7, "*Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*"
 - In John 9:6, Jesus uses the same dirt to heal the man. Why? To show that man needed to be created again.
 - See Ezek. 36:26—we need a new heart. And see John 5:25—Jesus came so that the dead might live.
- The unbeliever who is dead in his sins should follow the example of the blind beggar: obey Jesus' instructions and find everlasting life.
- The believer who is now alive should realize that Jesus came to him, just as he came to the blind beggar, and gave life

Implications for Today

- First, it means the good news may be better than you think.
 - Salvation is more than avoiding hell; it is being made brand new.
 - Describe what it means to be able to truly *see* that Jesus is the light of the world. How does it change your view of God, of other people, and of yourself?
- Second, it means the battle has been won.
 - Our biggest problem (condemnation) is behind us. Through Christ's work on the cross we have been re-created.
 - Explain how your current struggles pale in comparison to Christ's struggle for you. Why is it hard for us to have a proper perspective in the midst of trials?
- Third, it means your faith need not be shaken.
 - There are moments when we allow fear and doubt to creep in. But we don't have to. If Christ has given us new life, then our faith is not dependent upon our strength but his.
 - Look at Psalm 62:5-7. How should these verses encourage you as a Christian?
- Fourth, it means the church is invincible.
 - Since the church is the body of Christ, with members who have been re-created by the power of God through the gospel, it is invincible.
 - What are some ways you worry about the future (of your family, your country, etc)? What does it mean to say that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church? How should this affect your view of and participation in the church?
- Fifth, it means you are secure.
 - We should be careful not to give false security to the unconverted. However, God does not want us to live in a perpetual state of insecurity.
 - If God has given us new life, he will preserve us until the very end. Because we are God's workmanship, we can be sure he has good work for us to do (Eph. 2:10). What are some good works that the God, who re-created you, has for you to do?