

## Introduction

When one of my daughters was diagnosed with leukemia in 2000, there were fingers pointed at me as the cause of her sickness. A number of years later, one of my children was suffering from an auto-immune disease, and a pastor said that it was either sin, demonic, or a lack of faith on our part because physical healing is part of the atonement. There are lots of teachings about sickness in the church today, and some of these are not Biblically sound.

This lack of understanding about sickness is not a new problem; it has existed for thousands of years, in both the Old Covenant and now in the New Covenant. Job is one of the oldest books of the Bible. Uz was the grandson of Shem, the son of Noah. At the time of Uz, people were living about 450 years. After the flood God shortened the lifespan of men to 120 years, but it took a number of generations before the lifespans went down. Abraham lived 175 years, and his father, Terah, lived 205 years. In Job 1, we find that Job lived in the land of Uz. When misfortunes and sickness came upon Job, the four men that came to console him accused him of being unrighteous and sinful. They attributed all the calamities that happened to Job to his sinfulness. At the end of Job, the Lord said to the three men that His wrath was kindled against them because they had not spoken of Him what is right, as His servant Job has.

(Job 1:1) “There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.”

(Job 42:7) “It came about after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.”

John 9 is about the healing of the blind man. There were five different healings of blind men, but the healing of the man in John 9 is different; he was born blind. The prevalent view at that time was that sickness and misfortunes were caused by sin, either on the part of the person or his parents. The passage begins with Jesus’ disciples asking Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” In Part 1, we will first look at the question that Jesus’ disciples asked Him, “Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” Second, we will look at Jesus’ response. Third, we will look at the healing of the man born blind.

(Jn 9:1–2) “As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. {2} And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”

## Healing of Blind Man – Part 1

1. Causes of Sickness
  - a. Sickness from the sin of the individual
  - b. Sickness from the sin of parents
  - c. Sickness from other causes
2. Jesus’ Response
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### 1. Causes of Sickness (Jn 9:1-2)

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. On the last day of the feast, He had stood up and taught. He had proclaimed that He was the Light of the World, and had offered living water to anyone that was thirsty. People were discussing whether He was a prophet, the Messiah, or

one who leads people astray. Many people who heard Jesus, believed in Him. Jesus immediately began discipling these new believers, and He told them that if they abide in His word, they are truly disciples of His, and they will know the truth and the truth will set them free. When believers fill their minds with truth, their minds are renewed and their lives are transformed. The church today desperately needs to abide in God's word.

There were other people and Pharisees in the temple listening to Jesus teach those who believed. Most of the conversation that followed was between Jesus and these Jews, who were not accepting the things that Jesus taught. They claimed that they sons of Abraham and had never been in bondage; therefore, they did not need to be set free. Jesus clarified that those who sin are slaves of sin. He told them He knew they were descendants of Abraham, but that they were not really sons of Abraham, because what they were trying to do was not something Abraham would have done. He said they were doing the things of their father, Satan. The conversation ended with Jesus saying, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM." Upon hearing that, they picked up stones to throw at Him. Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. Our text today starts after Jesus has just left the temple with the Pharisees ready to stone Him.

(Jn 8:58–59) "Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." {59} Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."

As Jesus passed by out of the temple, He saw a man blind from birth. He had hid Himself and then left the temple; the Jews had picked up stones to stone Him to death, and yet He sees a blind man and stops. He saw a person in need for a touch from God. He did not see this as an interruption, but an opportunity to do the works of His Father.

(Jn 9:1) "As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth."

It was common for blind men, or other men that were lame and could not work, to sit by the gates of the temple and beg for money. The religious folks had more compassion and were more generous so the temple was a good place to beg. In Acts 3, when Peter and John were going to the temple for the hour of prayer, they came across a lame man who was begging for alms. He had been lame from his mother's womb, and had never walked. Peter did not give him money, but he healed him in the name of Jesus. Because of that healing five thousand men believed in Jesus.

Because the man was blind from birth, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Who sinned..." They asked that question because in their minds, his sickness had to come because of sin, either his own sin or the sin of his parents.

(Jn 9:2) "And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"

Where did that belief come from? It came from a number of different scriptures. It is clear that sickness can be caused by sin. Before Adam and Eve sinned, there was no sickness in the world. Sin brought sickness and death into the world; and we now live in a fallen world. God said that Adam and Eve could eat from any tree of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and if they ate the forbidden fruit, they would surely die. Their sin brought death into the world. Their physical bodies were not going to live eternally any longer. Their parts were going to break down and wear out.

(Ge 2:15–17) “Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. {16} The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; {17} but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

A number of years ago as I was praying, the Holy Spirit led me to Genesis 4:25-26. The passage jumped off the page at me. Let me read it to you.

(Gen 4:25-26) "And Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, she said, "God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel; for Cain killed him." {26} And to Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD."

I asked the Lord, what was it that happened in the day of Enosh that caused men to begin to call upon the name of the Lord. I looked up the meaning of Enosh. The word Enosh means mortal. Enosh comes from the root word, ‘anash. ‘Anash means to be frail, feeble, desperately wicked, incurable, sick or woeful. I don’t believe that Enosh was a frail or sick person. He lived to the age of 905, which is old for anyone. His name was a sign of the times. In the days of Enosh, man had progressed in sin to the place where they were desperately wicked, and they had also become frail, feeble, and sick. They recognized their plight was incurable. They saw that without the help of God, there was no hope, and they began to call upon the name of the Lord.

Anash: (Strong’s G605). 'anash, aw-nash'; a prim. root; to be frail, feeble, or (fig.) melancholy:--desperate (-ly wicked), incurable, sick, woeful.

Someone may get sick because of sickness in the world, not necessarily from an individual’s sin. Someone may have a virus, like Covid-19, and not be displaying any symptoms yet, and visit you. You catch the virus and become very sick. It was not sin in your life that caused you to become sick. There is sickness in the world because it is a fallen world.

We can mitigate some of these sicknesses by doing a number of things. We can wash our hands frequently. We can be careful about crowded areas, where outbreaks of viruses seem to be more prevalent. If we are sick, we should avoid being around others, and giving them the sickness. We can minimize our sugar intake, because sugar decreases your immune system. We can also take certain vitamins and supplements that boost our immune systems. We can make sure we get proper rest. We can exercise and stay strong. While all these things help prevent, they do not eliminate the possibility of getting sick. Since my own immune system has been compromised by the chemotherapy that I have been on for Multiple Myeloma cancer, I have been more focused on these things, and have been careful to do them.

Sickness also came about because of the curse of the Law. In Deuteronomy 28, God gave the blessings for obedience. Then, He gave the curses for disobedience, and it included sicknesses, plagues, and other diseases. So, some sicknesses can be caused by sin.

(Dt 28:58–61) “If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the Lord your God, {59} then the Lord will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses. {60} “He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid, and they will cling to you. {61} “Also every

sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, the Lord will bring on you until you are destroyed.”

**a. Sickness from the sin of the individual (Jn 9:2)**

The disciples asked Jesus if the blindness was caused by the sin of the man. That does not seem like a plausible question, since he was born blind. He had not been out in the world to sin and bring this plight upon himself. However, in their mind, sickness had to come from a person's sin or his parents' sin.

There are many sicknesses and diseases that can come from our sins. There are more than thirty different Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and only one out of four is curable. The World Health Organization said that more than one million STDs are acquired every day worldwide. Wikipedia states that over 1.1 billion people have STDs, not counting those with AIDS. A study by CDC in America found that 30-40% of teenage girls have contracted a STD. These diseases are primarily the result of personal sin, but not always. One marriage partner, who is faithful, can be infected by a partner who has been unfaithful, and acquires a STD, not for their sin, but by the sin of another.

Many sicknesses can come from drinking alcohol, particularly liver disease. Smoking is a leading cause of lung cancer, but there are other sicknesses caused by it. Unhealthy lifestyles can bring about many different sicknesses and diseases.

Sometimes there is a sickness brought about by the Lord in judgment or discipline. When Miriam opposed Moses, she was struck with leprosy. Moses entreated the Lord on her behalf, but He said that she would have it for seven days and had to remain outside the camp. Her leprosy was a result of her own sin.

(Nu 12:1–15) “Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses.... {9} So the anger of the Lord burned against them and He departed. {10} But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam *was* leprous, as *white as* snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she *was* leprous... {14} But the Lord said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut up for seven days outside the camp, and afterward she may be received again.” {15} So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again.”

In 1 Corinthians, they were not waiting for one another and were sinning against one another during the Lord's Supper, also called the Love Feast. Because of that, many were sick, and some had died.

(1 Co 11:20–32) “Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, {21} for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk... {29} For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. {30} For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. {31} But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. {32} But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.”

There are other causes of sickness that researchers are discovering. They have found that fear and anxiety can result in high blood pressure. Anxiety and stress can also cause gastrointestinal

issues like: ulcers, nausea, vomiting, and colitis. Stress can also impair our immune system, making us more susceptible to various sicknesses. Bitterness and rejection can sometimes result in kidney failure. Strokes and aneurisms are sometimes linked to anger. Jack Moraine is the senior pastor at the Vineyard Community Church in Gilbert, Arizona. In his book, *Healing Ministry, A Training Manual for Believers*, he discusses many of these things in detail.

The medical community agrees with Jack Moraine. The Mayo Clinic said that “letting go of grudges and bitterness can make way for improved health and peace of mind. Forgiveness can lead to: less anxiety, stress and hostility; few symptoms of depression, lower blood pressure, a stronger immune system, and improved heart health.”<sup>1</sup>

In the Science Daily publication, they say, “Holding a grudge appears to affect the cardiovascular and nervous systems. In one study, people who focused on a personal grudge had elevated blood pressure and heart rates, as well as increased muscle tension and feelings of being less in control.”<sup>2</sup>

The key here is that we need to practice forgiveness towards one another. We cannot harbor unforgiveness, bitterness, anger and other things. Our natural minds think that withholding forgiveness hurts the other person, but in reality, it can bring great harm to us. God tells us to forgive one another, and we need to forgive one another.

This blind man was born blind, and it was not from a sin that he had committed. But oftentimes a sickness can be a result of sin by a person.

#### **b. Sickness from the sin of parents (Jn 9:1-2,**

The second part of the disciples’ question was if this man’s blindness was a result of his parents’ sin. A person can be born because of the sins of his parents. Promiscuous men and women often pick up certain venereal diseases, like gonorrhea; and this can be passed from the mother’s womb into a child, causing it to be born blind. The World Health Organization stated that in 2022 over 1.1 million pregnant women were infected with syphilis, and it resulted in 390,000 adverse birth outcomes.<sup>3</sup> Some of the adverse birth outcomes include **blindness**, microcephaly, deafness, bone deformities, intellectual disability, and death.<sup>4</sup>

(Jn 9:2) “And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”

As far as the sins of the father causing sickness, some of this comes from a misunderstanding of the ten commandments. In Exodus 20, God told us not to make, serve, or worship idols. He said that He is a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third or fourth generations. When I was in prison ministry, I saw generations of the same family serving prison time. There were generational patterns and sins that ran in families. Oftentimes, the children were following the patterns they had seen in their father, and were imprisoned for similar charges. Godly parents, who set a good example for their children, bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and set proper boundaries for their children are a huge blessing.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/forgiveness/art-20047692>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080104122807.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/sexually-transmitted-infections-\(stis\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/sexually-transmitted-infections-(stis))

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/stds/conditioninfo/concern>

Conversely, parents who set poor examples for their children, do not teach them to fear God and walk in His ways, and do not discipline them, are not setting their children up for success, but for all kinds of troubles in life.

(Ex 20:5) “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,”

There are natural causes of sicknesses and diseases, and many of these are learned from parents. I have also seen where a mother and father have a poor diet, and suffer from obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and other problems, pass their poor diet down to their children, and they have poor diets and similar sicknesses and diseases. Many health problems today are caused by poor diets and lack of exercise. When we lived in New Mexico, my primary care physician was Dr. Russel Schultz. He had a sign in the exam room that said, “Whatever your problem is, part of the solution is diet and exercise.” Dr. Schultz was very accurate in that statement.

In Ezekiel 18, God addresses the punishment of children for the sins of their fathers. He told Israel to stop misusing the scripture about children paying for the sins of their parents. He said, “The persons who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself. Despite God’s word through Ezekiel, it was still the common view that the sicknesses of a child could be the result of the sin of the father.

(Eze 18:19–20) “Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity?’ When the son has practiced justice and righteousness and has observed all My statutes and done them, he shall surely live. {20} “The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.”

When I was a prison chaplain, we took care of two foster children. The chaplain for the women in prison would occasionally ask me if we would take care of a baby that was about to be born. Some women were pregnant when they were arrested, and when they had their babies, they could be with the babies for two days in the hospital, and then they went to foster care. These mothers were not in jail for good behavior; they were there primarily for drugs. They were usually addicted to drugs, and sold their bodies for drugs, and also dealt drugs to support their own habit. The two foster children we had were known as “crack babies”. They weighed about five pounds, were jittery, and not very healthy. They had crack in their little bodies that came from their mothers, and it took about six to eight months to work its way out of their system. We spent a fair amount of time at the ER with these babies because they were sickly. These babies had not sinned, but they came into the world in bad shape because of the sins of their parents.

#### c. **Sickness from other causes** (Jn 9:1-2,

There are a number of other causes of sickness. We are in a spiritual battle, and there is a very real enemy who is trying to kill, steal, and destroy (Jn 10:10). Earlier I mentioned Job. Satan smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. He was in great pain and agony from it, and yet in all of this, Job did not sin with his lips. Held fast to his integrity. His sickness was not from sin, it was from Satan.

(Job 2:7–10) “Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head... {9} Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!” {10} ... In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”

Even though the disciples did not ask about whether the sickness was caused by demons, it is true that some sicknesses are caused by demons. There are examples in the Bible where the cause was said to be demonic. Matthew contains several examples to look at. In Matthew 9:32, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Jesus. After Jesus had cast out the demon, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed.

(Mt 9:32–33) “As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him. {33} After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, *and were saying*, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

In Matthew 12, there was a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him so that he could both speak and see.

(Mt 12:22) “Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw.”

Jesus did not cast out a demon every time He healed somebody. When a sickness was caused by a demon, He cast it out, and if the sickness was not caused by a demon, He just healed them.

When Jesus sent out the twelve apostles, He gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. He gave them the power and authority to heal, no matter what the sickness was, or the cause of sickness.

(Lk 9:1–2) “And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. {2} And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.”

There are also sicknesses that arise out of chemical toxicity. We also see today a lot of lawsuits against the companies that manufacture pesticides and herbicides. Researchers have found links to certain weed killers for various forms of cancer and leukemia. These are natural causes and can affect children. The use of selective herbicides and pesticides has an impact on the health of the society. Many people have turned to buying organic produce, where growers must demonstrate that they do not use those chemicals, in order to get their certification.

Our next-door neighbor in Orlando was in the navy. While serving in Viet Nam, he fell in love with a Vietnamese woman. They were exposed to Agent Orange in Viet Nam. One of their three sons, Eric, was born with a stub for a left arm, and it was said to have been caused by Agent Orange. With all the dyes, artificial sweeteners, and genetically modified foods today, there are many health problems today resulting from them.

In the New Testament, we have many examples of leaders who were sick. The Apostle Paul preached to the Galatians for the first time when he was sick. There is no indication that he was in sin, weak in faith, or that this was a judgment or discipline of God. He was doing the work of God with a sincere and blameless conscience, and happened to be sick when he arrived in Galatia. We do not know the cause of his sickness, but it was not from his sin.

(Ga 4:13–14) “but you know that it was because of a bodily illness (asthenia, Strong’s G769) that I preached the gospel to you the first time; {14} and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus *Himself*.”

Some of Paul’s team members or co-workers were also sick at times. In Philippians 2, Epaphroditus was sick, almost to the point of death, and there is no indication of sin, but of faithful service to the Lord.

(Php 2:25–27) “But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; {26} because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick (astheneo, Strong’s G770). {27} For indeed he was sick (astheneo) to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.”

In 2 Timothy 4:20, Paul left Trophimus sick at Miletus, and again, there is no mention of sin or judgment. He had been traveling with Paul on his fourth apostolic journey, and had become ill in Miletus. Therefore, Paul left him there. Trophimus is from Ephesus, which is where Timothy is at the time. Paul is about to be put to death, and Timothy is going to be taking over the apostolic ministry. Paul wanted Timothy to know where Trophimus was, because he will be part of Timothy’s inner circle as he assumes leadership of the apostolic team. If Trophimus was in sin, he would not be considered for his continued role in apostolic ministry.

(2 Ti 4:20) “Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick (astheneo) at Miletus.”

In Paul’s first letter to Timothy, he told him not to drink water exclusively, but to also drink some wine because of his frequent ailments or sicknesses. These probably came from the poor water quality. There was no indication of sin, lack of faith, or judgment; Timothy was a faithful servant of God. Paul always spoke very highly of his son in the faith. His sickness was probably from the water, a natural cause. Many parts of the world do not have good drinking water, and it causes many people to be sick. According to the World Health Organization, 2.1 billion people, or one out of four people around the world, do not have safe drinking water. <sup>5</sup>

(1 Ti 5:23) “No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments (astheneia).”

## 2. Jesus’ Response (John 9:3)

The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” Even though Jesus did answer their question, saying neither, He did something that I really like. The focus of the disciples was the root cause of the sickness. Jesus’ focus was not on the past, but on the present. He knew that He was going to heal the man’s blindness and that the works of God would be displayed in him. I think we can focus on the problem rather than on the solution. Jesus focused on the solution, not the problem. There is a lesson there for all of us.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.who.int/news/item/26-08-2025-1-in-4-people-globally-still-lack-access-to-safe-drinking-water---who-unicef#:~:text=Ten%20key%20facts%20from%20the,in%20urban%20areas%20has%20stagnated.>

(Jn 9:3) “Jesus answered, “*It was neither that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was so* that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

When I played professional golf and found myself in trouble on a hole, my focus could not be on what I did wrong to get into this position. I had to focus on what I needed to do to get back into position, and move forward. There would be time for evaluating what went wrong on the practice tee afterwards. The focus in the round had to be on the shot at hand and what needed to be done. This blind man needed healing, not an evaluation of where his blindness came from.

Jesus’ response was not the answer that the disciples were expecting. To them, it had to be either the man’s sin, or his parent’s sin, and Jesus said it was neither, and that it was for the works of God to be displayed in him. I was counseling a man recently, and after I shared some scripture with him, he said, “That was not the answer that I was expecting.” I spoke the truth in love to him, but it was painful for him to hear the truth, and he was not expecting it. I don’t think the answer Jesus gave was painful, but it was not the answer His disciples were expecting. They had it in their mind that it was one of these two options, and Jesus said that both of those options were wrong. This man’s blindness from birth was not caused by his sin, nor his parents’ sin. It was so that the works of God could be displayed in him.

Jesus said that his blindness was so that the works of God could be displayed in him. Jesus knew what He was going to do. When God formed this man in his mother’s womb, He knew the days ordained for him when there was not yet one. He knew everything about this man. He also knew that Jesus would heal Him as He left the temple at the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles. God is omniscient, knowing all things, and He knew the work He intended to display in him.

That does not mean that every sickness is so that the works of God might be displayed. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. The devil came to kill, steal, and destroy, and sickness was one thing that Satan uses. Jesus came to destroy these works, and work the works of God, which included casting out demons and healing the sick. Not every sick person was healed in the New Testament. We saw earlier that some of Paul’s team were sick, and God had not healed them at the time he wrote those letters.

In a church that I used to pastor, we had two men get colon cancer. Their cancers were a few years apart, not at the same time. As I prayed about the first man, the Lord spoke to me, saying that this was a sickness unto death, and that I needed to prepare his funeral message. The Lord showed me the passage that I was to preach for this man, and it was out of Hebrews 11. This man was a real man of faith, and the message for this man of God was very appropriate. As I was praying for the second man, the Lord also spoke to me very clearly. He said that I was His representative, and I was to rebuke the sickness on His behalf, and that He would heal the man. Two days earlier, the man had eighteen lymph nodes removed and they were all cancerous, meaning that his cancer had broken through the colon and spread throughout his body. He was given a few months to live at best. I prayed over the man at church the next day, praying exactly as the Lord instructed me. I did not feel anything, but I knew that God healed him. He went in for a pet scan the next day, and they could not find a trace of cancer anywhere in his body. This was a case where the works of God were displayed in him.

Next, Jesus told His disciples that we must work the works of the Father who had sent Him as long as it is day. He said that night is coming when no one can work. Jesus said again that He is the Light of the world. While Jesus, the Light, was in the world, it was day. When Jesus left,

when the Light had left, it would be dark. He was there to heal and to save as many people as He could while He was there. Even though the Pharisees were after Jesus, and seeking to kill Him, He paused on His way out of the temple to heal this man who had been blind from birth. He was not preoccupied with getting away from the Pharisees; He was always focused on doing the things that the Father showed Him to do. This man did not see Jesus and ask Jesus to heal him. Jesus saw the man, and Jesus took the initiative and went and healed the man.

(Jn 9:4-7) “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. {5} “While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”

We do not know how many people Jesus healed while He was there, but John had said that the world could not contain all the books if all the things which Jesus did were written in detail. John just wrote about a few of the signs that Jesus had done so that people would believe in Jesus, and have life in His name.

(Jn 21:25) “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.”

(Jn 20:30–31) “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; {31} but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Notice that Jesus said, “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day. In Matthew 5, Jesus said we are the light of the world. Jesus is the Light of the world, and we are reflections of that light, Jesus’ representatives. We are to continue to do the works that Jesus began. In John 14:12, Jesus said, “he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also.”

(Mt 5:14) “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;”

(Jn 14:12) “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.”

In Acts 1, Luke begins by saying, “The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach.” The apostles and others continued to do the works of God. God is still wanting to heal people today, we are called to do the works of God as long as it is day.

(Ac 1:1) “The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,”

### 3. **Healing of the blind man** (Jn 9:6-7)

After saying that they must do the works of day as long as it is day, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. Scholars differ on what the significance is of His spit and the clay. Sometimes Jesus just spoke a word and people were healed. Sometimes, He laid hands on them. Sometimes, a person just touched his garment and was healed. Jesus could have healed the man in any way that He chose, so I don’t put much importance on the spittle and clay.

(Jn 9:6-7) “When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, {7} and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came *back* seeing.”

Jesus sent him to the pool of Siloam. In 2 Kings 20:20, Hezekiah made a pool and the conduit to bring water into the city of Jerusalem. The tunnel that brought the water to the pool is 1,750 feet long, and runs from the Spring of Gihon into the pool.

(2 Ki 20:20) “Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and all his might, and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?”

The pool of Siloam was on the south side of Jerusalem. The temple was on the north side of Jerusalem. Jesus had healed the crippled man in John 5 at the Pool of Bethesda, which on the northeast side of the temple. This time, He sent the man to the pool of Siloam, which happens to mean “Sent”. The man went to the pool and washed off the clay and spittle, and came back seeing.

There is not a direct connection between this text and Luke 13 and the story of the tower in Siloam, but it is possible. The tower of Siloam was part of the fortification of the walls of Jerusalem and near the pool of Siloam. Luke records that some people reported to Jesus that Pilate had put some Galileans to death and mixed their blood with their sacrifices. They were slaying some animals for sacrifice, and while doing so, Pilate put to death eighteen of them. The Pilate apparently had a grievance against these Galileans and vented his anger towards these eighteen, even though they had not done anything wrong. Jesus responded to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

(Lk 13:2–5) “And Jesus said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were *greater* sinners than all *other* Galileans because they suffered this *fate*? {3} “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. {4} “Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were *worse* culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? {5} “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

I make the connection because the disciples wanted to know whose sin had caused the blindness. In the incident in Luke 13, Jesus made the point that those eighteen killed were no worse culprits or sinners than anyone else. He was cautioning them about judging them, and being self-righteous. He said that they will all perish unless they repent. The blind man and his parents were no worse sinners than anyone else, and people needed to repent of their own sins, instead of trying to pinpoint and focus on their sins. This may or may not have been why Jesus sent him to the Pool of Siloam; it was just a possible reason.

## Conclusion and Applications

There are many different reasons for sickness in the world. Once sin entered into the world, sickness and death also entered the world. Some illnesses do come from an individual’s sin while other sicknesses can come from parents. However, some sicknesses do not come as a result of an

individual's sin, or his parents' sin; they just come because there is sickness and disease in the world. Some sicknesses come from other causes like toxic chemicals, poor hygiene, poor water supply, and poor lifestyles and eating habits. Some sicknesses come from demonic causes. The disciples did not ask about all those causes; they narrowed it down to two, the sin of the blind man or the sin of his parents.

Jesus told them that it was neither the man's sin or his parents' sin; it was so that the works of God could be done. Jesus was focused on doing the works of the Father, who had sent Him. He was doing all the works He could while He was in the world. Jesus focused on the work to be done, rather than focusing on the cause of the sickness.

Although Jesus had hid Himself and left the temple to get away from the Jews who had picked up stones to kill Him, He saw the blind man and healed him. It was not an interruption, but an opportunity to do the works of the Father.

Jesus spat on the ground, made clay with the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes. Then, He sent him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man went and washed, and came back seeing. A spectacular miracle had occurred.

Our first application is that we should also be doing the works of the Father. We should not get so preoccupied and busy in life that we do not notice those who are suffering around us. We need to be alert and aware of the people around us. We should also be asking the Lord if this is a work that He is doing, and if it is, we should make time to minister to the person or people in need. Jesus has also called us to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and minister to the poor.

Our second application is to focus on what God wants done, rather than what mistakes a person has made that has caused the sickness. We should have the attitude of Christ, who focused on what the Father wanted to do, rather than why the man was in that predicament. Knowing the root cause can be helpful, but focusing on what God is wanting to do is even more important.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father God, thank You for this account about the man who was born blind. Help us to be aware and alert to the people around us that have needs. Help us to always be listening to You and attentive to the work that You want done. Help us not to be judgmental about the sicknesses and misfortunes that people are going through, but to be sensitive and thinking about what You would have us do for them. I pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Discussion Questions**

- Why did the disciples ask whose sin caused the blindness? What do you think they were they wanting to do with that information?
- How is knowing the causes of sickness helpful to us?
- Have you ever been so preoccupied that you missed out on an opportunity to minister to someone in need?
- What are some ways that we can know the work that the Father is doing today?

- What was the significance of making a clay spittle to anoint the man with?
- Why do you think Jesus sent him to wash, rather than just heal him? In Luke 18:42, the blind man in Jericho was healed instantaneously. In Mark 8, Jesus spat in the eyes of a blind man, and healed him. Why did He use different methods?

## **Healing of the Blind Man – Part 1**

### **Introduction** (Job 1:1, 42:7, Jn 9:1-2)

1. **Causes of Sickness** (Jn 9:1-2, Jn 8:58–59, Ac 3:1-2, Ge 2:15–17, 4:25-26, Dt 28:58–61)
  - a. **Sickness from the sin of the individual** (Jn 9:1-2, Nu 12:1–15, 1 Co 11:20–32)
  - b. **Sickness from the sin of parents** (Jn 9:2, Ex 20:5, Ez 18:19-20)
  - c. **Sickness from other causes** (Jn 9:2, Job 2:7–10, Mt 9:32-33, Mt 12:22, Lk 9:1-2, Ga 4:13–14, Php 2:25-27, 2 Ti 4:20, 1 Ti 5:23)
2. **Jesus’ Response** (John 9:3-7, 21:25, 20:30-31, Mt 5:14, Jn 14:12, Ac 1:1)
3. **Healing of the blind man** (Jn 9:6-7, 2 Ki 20:20, Lk 13:2–5)

### **Conclusions and Applications**

- 1.
- 2.