Lessons from a Miracle of Mercy

Ken Chapman · John 9:1–41

INTRODUCTION

- The scriptures are a place of learning. They're a place of learning on at least two levels.
- There's also so much learning that can be done in just observing.
- There are so many lessons to be learned in and from Jesus, and lessons to be learned in and from the blind man.

1 Miracles Point to Heaven

John 9:28–33

- The word signs is used often of the miracles that Jesus and others perform.
- This road sign is pointing straight up to heaven. It's a sign pointing to heaven, saying, Man cannot do this.
- Since the world began, it's been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.
- The primary purpose of miracles was to put the stamp of God's approval on the person performing the miracle.

2 Miracles Show the Character of God

Mark 1:40–41

- Why positive miracles? Because they show the character of God.
- If you are willing, you can make me clean. Stretched out his hand and touched him and said, I am willing. Be cleansed.
- We learn the character of God, the compassion. That God came to help people.
- He didn't come just to help people's physical problems, but this illustrates that he came to help greater, deeper needs and problems, those which are spiritual.

3 Miracles Were an Occasion to Teach

John 9:39–41

- These miracles also were an occasion to teach.
- If you were blind, you would have no sin. But now you say, We see, therefore your sin remains.
- His parents who were blinded by fear. We have the Pharisees who were blinded by prejudice.
- Of all the people we read in this story, the only person who could see was the blind man.

4 The Importance of Simple Obedience

- One thing that strikes us about this story is that the blind man did what he was told.
- Because he was blind. And he had nothing to lose. He was blind and he wanted to see.

- If we understood the deep need of our present spiritual condition, we wouldn't argue, we wouldn't debate.
- We would just simply go and wash. Just do what we're told. It's as simple as that.

5 The Importance of Reason

- When you become a Christian, you're not required to check your brains at the door. Christianity is a reasonable thing, a rational thing.
- When he's first asked, what do you know about this? I know his name. Man called Jesus.
- See how his faith increased as the evidence increased. That's the way faith ought to be. It's reasonable.

6 The Courage of This Man

- Unlike his parents who cowered in fear and would not give God and Jesus the glory for the miracle.
- He, with the threat of persecution, the threat of excommunication, just says what he believes and what he knows.
- Every day of my life I woke up and went to sleep blind. But today I can see there's nothing you can do to ruin this day.
- I'm a child of God. No matter what happens in this life, I'm a child of God.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's have the obedience and the rationality and the courage of this blind man. Life is full of lessons. If we'll just listen, if we'll just observe and learn from them.

MY NOTES