

# Wednesday with the Word

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## Can You See What God Is Doing? A Mess in the Midst of a Miracle

### **John 9:1-3**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind since birth. **2** Jesus' disciples asked, "Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it because he or his parents sinned?"

- What is the assumption behind the disciples question?
- Why would they assume this?

### **John 9:3-5**

**3** "No, it wasn't!" Jesus answered. "But because of his blindness, you will see God work a miracle for him. **4** As long as it is day, we must do what the one who sent me wants me to do. When night comes, no one can work. **5** While I am in the world, I am the light for the world."

- They were in a position to see a miracle. The question will become will the recognize the miracle?
- What can get in the way of us recognizing a miracle when we see one?
- Have you ever recognized a miracle?
- How do we know what a miracle is?
- What qualifies as a miracle?

Miracle = a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.

### **John 9:6-12**

**6** After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud and smeared it on the man's eyes. **7** Then he said, "Go and wash off the mud in Siloam Pool."

The man went and washed in Siloam, which means “One Who Is Sent.” When he had washed off the mud, he could see.

**8** The man’s neighbors and the people who had seen him begging wondered if he really could be the same man. **9** Some of them said he was the same beggar, while others said he only looked like him. But he told them, “I am that man.”

**10** “Then how can you see?” they asked.

**11** He answered, “Someone named Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. He told me to go and wash it off in Siloam Pool. When I did, I could see.”

**12** “Where is he now?” they asked.

“I don’t know,” he answered.

Why didn’t the people believe?

Why are they so confused?

Why did they wonder if he could be the same man? Key verse 10

People who were born blind, died blind. There was no expectation for them to see. For this man to see was a miracle. This was not supposed to happen. A key to a miracle is when things happen that, in the flesh, it appears it was not supposed to happen.

Miracles are happening right before our eyes and we can sometimes let other peoples lack of faith get in the way of us seeing the miracle and appreciating the miracle. Once again we are about to see how the Pharisees do what they do. They continue to pop up in the Bible and in our lives.

John 9:13-

The Pharisees Try To Find Out What Happened

**13-14** The day when Jesus made the mud and healed the man was a Sabbath. So the people took the man to the Pharisees. **15** They asked him how he was able to see, and he answered, “Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. Then after I washed it off, I could see.”

**16a** Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus doesn’t come from God. If he did, he would not break the law of the Sabbath.” Others asked, “How could someone who is a sinner work such a miracle?”

Since the Pharisees could not agree among themselves, **17** they asked the man, “What do you say about this one who healed your eyes?”

“He is a prophet!” the man told them.

- How is the blind can see that Jesus is a prophet and the religious leaders cannot?
- Why do the Pharisees question if this is a miracle or not?
- What is the primary concern of the Pharisees?
- Why are the Pharisees always so concerned with “tradition” and “protocol” versus recognizing the move and power of God?
- Are the Pharisees blind and incapable of seeing the power of God?
- Are they so stuck in their tradition and law they can’t see what God is doing?
- What about you? Can you see the miracles God is working in your life?

### **John 9:18-23**

**18** But the Jewish leaders would not believe that the man had once been blind.

They sent for his parents **19** and asked them, “Is this the son that you said was born blind? How can he now see?”

**20** The man’s parents answered, “We are certain that he is our son, and we know that he was born blind. **21** But we don’t know how he got his sight or who gave it to him. Ask him! He is old enough to speak for himself.”

**22-23** The man’s parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The leaders had already agreed that no one was to have anything to do with anyone who said Jesus was the Messiah.

- The parents are afraid. Do we let people who don’t believe, and don’t have faith to talk us out of our faith or what we believe?
- Why are these parents afraid of these Jewish leaders?
- Do we let religious bullies push us around in the church?
- Do we let people in the church who don’t see what God is doing shut us, shut us down and we then refuse to speak back or say, you may not see it, but I see what God is doing?
- Do we let people of no faith or little faith make us afraid to tell the world what the Lord has done for us?

### **John 9:24-34**

**24** The leaders called the man back and said, “Swear by God to tell the truth! We know that Jesus is a sinner.”

**25** The man replied, “I don’t know if he is a sinner or not. All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see!”

**26** “What did he do to you?” the Jewish leaders asked. “How did he heal your eyes?”

**27** The man answered, “I have already told you once, and you refused to listen. Why do you want me to tell you again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

**28** The leaders insulted the man and said, “You are his follower! We are followers of Moses. **29** We are sure that God spoke to Moses, but we don’t even know where Jesus comes from.”

**30** “How strange!” the man replied. “He healed my eyes, and yet you don’t know where he comes from. **31** We know that God listens only to people who love and obey him. God doesn’t listen to sinners. **32** And this is the first time in history that anyone has ever given sight to someone born blind. **33** Jesus could not do anything unless he came from God.”

**34** The leaders told the man, “You have been a sinner since the day you were born! Do you think you can teach us anything?” Then they said, “You can never come back into any of our meeting places!”

- What do you find interesting about the reaction of the Pharisees?
- Why are the Pharisees reacting this way?
- What do you find interesting about the reaction of the man that has been healed?

### **John 9:35-41**

**35** When Jesus heard what had happened, he went and found the man. Then Jesus asked, “Do you have faith in the Son of Man?”

**36** He replied, “Sir, if you will tell me who he is, I will put my faith in him.”

**37** “You have already seen him,” Jesus answered, “and right now he is talking with you.”

**38** The man said, “Lord, I put my faith in you!” Then he worshiped Jesus.

**39** Jesus told him, “I came to judge the people of this world. I am here to give sight to the blind and to make blind everyone who can see.”

**40** When the Pharisees heard Jesus say this, they asked, “Are we blind?”

**41** Jesus answered, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty. But now that you claim to see, you will keep on being guilty.”

- What does it mean to “see” in this passage?
- What is it the “blind man” can see and the Pharisees cannot see?
- We are in the midst of a miracle at Wheat Street. Can you see it?

Miracles have nothing to do with men or women.

Miracles have nothing to do with the time of day or the tenure of a pastor.

Miracles are about the divine will of God. They are about God deciding, for reasons we don’t know, to do something supernatural. The other side of miracles is us being able to perceive them and receive them.

Who are you in this text:

- The Blindman
- The Parents
- The Disciples
- The Pharisees / Jewish Leaders
- The Crowd