

# The God Who Changes Your Destiny

John 9:1-12

Life Group Discussion – October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Today's passage is about a blind man who is healed when Jesus puts mud on the man's eyes. But before the miracle happens, the disciples see this blind man and ask Jesus a question,

**His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2)**

The disciples asked this question because they believed that if you sinned, God would punish you. So they wondered whether it was the man who had sinned or his parents who had sinned that caused him to be blind.

The Jewish people at that time believed that God would cause sickness and pain to those who sinned and would give blessing and wealth to those who upheld the law. Therefore if someone was wealthy, it was because they were not sinners. Whereas those who became sick or had deformities, it was because they were sinners. In today's terms, that would mean people who failed in their businesses, got terminal illnesses, and had different problems would be the ones who were the most sinful whereas those who were rich and were born into rich families were not sinful. This is why people would look down on those with leprosy, because they believed they deserved it.

In the Bible, this is called legalism. Because it focuses solely on the past, there is no room for God's grace and mercy. Our destiny cannot change with this type of thinking. This was the mindset of the people back then, and of many of us today. But Jesus answers the disciples,

**"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. (John 9:3)**

The blindness was not a result of his past but as a stepping-stone for his future. Today's hardships are not a result of your past, but so that God can work something greater in your future. This is why we must look forward in hope instead of looking to our past in regret. This is the Christian mindset.

When we believe in the living Word of God, there is power to transform. We cannot change our past and we have very little power on our own. But when we rely upon Jesus and believe in what He has done for us, He is able to change our lives.

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)**

This is why the mission and vision of our church is simple; to save souls. We desire to transform lives through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is why we must open our eyes. Many of us are like the blind man, but we do not realize it. But when we open our eyes, we will realize that we are children of God and out of thanksgiving, we will spread the Gospel. Our mission changes to what God wants.

So what does it mean to be a person who has their eyes open?

**1. Even when difficulties come, we do not lose hope**

**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)**

The present is not the end, but we know the future holds something even greater for us. We know that even if this life is difficult, there is something far greater and more beautiful waiting for us when we die. We are going to Heaven, and this is only through the grace of God.

## **2. Do not hold on to your past**

Our past is not something we should hold on to forever. There is nothing we can do to change what we have done, but we know that Jesus can transform our lives today and tomorrow. We believe that tomorrow will be much better than today, and so we can be thankful and happy in all circumstances now.

**Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12)**

Let us live like children of God. Even though we are lacking, God is more than enough. So let us be children who follow the commands of Jesus. When we do then transformation will happen.

This is why in Philippians; Paul says to be joyful always. For us, we do not want to be a church that simply looks pretty or has many people. We want to be a church that is set apart, that is different than other places. We want to be a church that raises Disciples of Christ, that reaches out to the lost, and that transforms lives.

## **3. We must live lives of obedience to God**

Up until now, Jesus had healed the blind through his words. But for this miracle, He puts mud on the man's eyes and tells him to wash it. He asks the man to obey Him. If this area had just 100 people who obeyed Jesus like this blind man, the DMV area would be radically different.

We must stand and trust only in the Word of God. This is the only way we will ever face and overcome this world. The only truth that exists in this world is in the Bible, so let us obey it with joyful hearts.

Many people will say our destiny is already set, that our course in life cannot be changed. There are things that seem impossible in our lives. But we believe in a living God who can change our destiny and change even the blind to see and bring the dead to life. But we must keep God in the center of our lives. Keep the church in the center, keep prayer in the center, and keep the Word of God in the center. And when you do, God will transform your life and change your destiny.

## **SHARING-----**

1. When was a time that God was able to work something great in your life through your hardships?
2. We cannot hold on to our past mistakes. What is that mistake or regret in your past that is has been difficult for you to let go? How is Jesus helping you to let go of it now?
3. The blind man was healed through his obedience to Jesus Christ. What is an area of your life that Jesus is asking you to obey Him in? Please share.