



GOING DEEPER: WHEN PIGS FLY



MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF JOHN (WEEK 3 OF 4)

(JOHN 9:1-41) JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

John's Gospel is famous for the "I Am" sayings of Jesus. "I Am the bread of life" was Jesus' claim at the feeding of the 5000. When Jesus walked on the water, He said "Be comforted, I Am". When Jesus says "I Am," He is claiming the name of God for Himself. For example, when He says, "Before Abraham was born, I Am," He is saying He was God earlier in history. These "I Am's" often connect to the miraculous signs in John. Before healing the man born blind, Jesus says, "I Am the light of the world." God is the one who gives real light—physical and spiritual.

- 1) Joshua Bell is a famous violinist whose experience in a subway was used in a sermon illustration at Messiah. Watch him play in a D.C. Metro station as hundreds of people walk by and ignore him. You-tube video: (https://youtu.be/hnOPu0_YWhw). Bell made \$32.17 for his efforts in the station. Many people have paid hundreds of dollars to listen to him in concert halls. Like the commuters who failed to notice a musical genius in their midst, could we be similarly moving through life so fast that we miss the miracles and majesty of the signs God is giving us?
- 2) Few of us are physically blind; however, we all experience darkness. How does being in the dark give us a taste of what blindness might be like? Of the many healings John could have recorded, why do you think he recorded the miracle of a blind man receiving sight?
- 3) The blind man is not alone in being "in the dark" in this story. John involves many different characters who are similarly situated. Describe the darkness of each character and their need for the light of Jesus.
 - vs.2 The Disciples - *"who sinned, this man or his parents, that he be born blind?"*
 - vs.8 The Neighbors - *"Is this the man who used to sit and beg?"*
 - vs.16 The Pharisees - *"this man is not from God since he does not keep the sabbath."*
 - vs.16 The Others - *"How can a man who is a sinner show such signs?"*
 - vs. 21 The Parents - *"we do not know who opened his eyes? ask him."*
 - vs. 24 The Pharisees (Again) - *"this man is a sinner."*
- 4) How do the following prophecies from Isaiah connect to the healing of the blind man? (Isaiah 42: 16, Isaiah 53:4-11, Isaiah 35:5-10)
- 5) Jesus is the only one not "blind" in this story. How do His "I Am the Light of the World" statements proclaim Him as the giver of true physical and spiritual light? (John 8:12, John 1:1-5, John 12: 36 & 46)
- 6) Jesus came into a very dark world and tells us in the Great Commission to go into it. How are we to bring light into a dark world? (Matthew 5:14). How does John 4:4 emphasize the urgency? How do verses 5-6 give us confidence? Why do you think John uses the word "anointed" to describe the placement of mud onto the blind man's eyes? How does this action apply to our mission to be light to the world?

Prayer: Thank you Heavenly Father, for sending Your son Jesus to be the light in our dark world. Like the man healed from blindness, teach us to be a powerful witness to others as we say, "I once was blind, but now I see." Amen.