

Meeting Jesus

The Man Born Blind

Foundation

Bible passage : John 9

This is another encounter which John records in great depth, taking up an entire chapter. The healing is amazing, though little different from many others Jesus, but John particularly focuses on how Jesus used it to teach about Himself. During the course of the chapter we find the blind man not only coming to see physically, but coming to see spiritually and trusting in Jesus. In contrast others were shown to be spiritually blind because they would not believe.

The opening question was natural, people assumed that suffering is the result of sin. But given that this many had been born blind whose sin had been the cause, his, or his parents? The Bible shows us that whilst sin can be the result of suffering, it can also be for many other reasons, including to refine faith, to demonstrate a person's faith as in the case of Job, or because of persecution. But this man's suffering had a different reason, it would bring glory to God. As we read the account all these years later we are demonstrating the truth of what Jesus said.

"I Am the Light of the World"

But the question leads to the key point in the passage when Jesus says "I am the Light of the World". Whilst the blind man received his sight, and for the first time in his life could see light, far more importantly by the end He had come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Remember that John wrote his gospel in order that by



Remains of the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem

hearing about what Jesus said and did, his readers would come to believe the same thing and so have life in His name (John 20.30).

In the previous two units we saw Jesus healing by commanding but this time he heals in a very different way. Jesus made mud to put on the man's eyes and then sent him to wash. There was no mistaking who was the cause of the healing but it had the effect that the man himself did not know.

The healing caused an understandable stir but such was the hostility some had towards Jesus that again they would not rejoice in the gift of sight but again were incensed by the fact that this had been done on the Sabbath.

The exchanges between the man and the Pharisees are a bit comical. His parents were clearly frightened to speak openly, whilst the man goes from being timid to openly rebuking the Pharisees. They got increasingly annoyed because they could not discredit the obvious miracle. Even presented with evidence right in front of their eyes and well attested by others, they would not believe.



Jesus gave sight to the man born blind showing that He is the Son of God and the Light of the World.