

John 9:1-7
(Psalm 119:105-112; 1 John 1:5-10)
“Walking in the Light”

Introduction

This text raises great questions: questions concerning the problem of evil and suffering in a world created by a God whom we believe to be both all-loving and all-powerful. We want to know who is to blame for the devastated lives we see around us, and for the evil we ourselves experience every day. We are like Jesus’ disciples, who seek to assign blame for this man’s blindness, asking Jesus, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (9:2). Jesus’ reply and subsequent ministry to the man show him once again to be just what he claims to be: the light of the world.

This account of the healing of a blind man follows very logically from the events recorded in chapter eight: “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’” (8:12). Now again, in our text, Jesus says, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (9:5). When we return (after our mission conference) to examine the rest of this story, we will see the miracle of healing continue, as the healed, formerly blind man moves beyond mere physical healing into a gradual gaining of spiritual sight, in contrast to a loss of spiritual sight on the part of those who reject Jesus, refusing to walk in the light revealed to them in his life and teaching.

This morning, I want to encourage you to hear Jesus calling us to walk in the light, and to note four things that we should see when we follow Jesus into the light of God’s grace, four things that should change our perspective on the so-called problem of evil, and help us respond with grace to the broken lives and broken world all around us every day.

Body

- 1. When we walk in the light, we view suffering with compassion (9:2-&3).**
- 2. When we walk in the light, we see God’s glory displayed in brokenness (9:3).**
- 3. When we walk in the light, we recognize Christ’s mission as our own (9:4).**
- 4. When we walk in the light, we realize the urgency of our mission (9:4).**

Conclusion

When we walk in the light, everything looks different. No longer is suffering an indictment of God’s power or goodness, but rather an occasion for his grace and glory to be displayed. We begin to see his glory everywhere, even in the darkest, most difficult places, and to hear him calling us to take up his work of seeking and saving the lost and the broken while it is day, for the night is coming when no one can work.

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