

## **Sight, Insight and Revelation**

### **Opening Text: John 9:1-38**

This a passage about a man without sight, religious leaders without insight and disciples looking for revelation.

God is going to *do* something with this word today!

**Isaiah 44:26** says that God ... "*confirms the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messengers;*"

**Psalms 107:20** - *He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions*

His word is alive and powerful and is here today to do something!

#### **1. A man without sight**

This is a passage about sight, about vision, about a man who received sight and saw Jesus! That is powerful, would you agree?

#### **2. Leaders without insight**

However, it is also a passage about men who could see but lacked *insight*. When the formerly blind man came to them, they didn't rejoice at this miracle but questioned it and opposed it.

These were educated religious leaders who should have immediately acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, since this was an exclusively messianic miracle. It was unheard of that anyone had opened the eyes of one who was born blind (even the blind man knew that) – that was a miracle reserved for the Messiah at His coming, according to Isaiah 61.

Their insistent questions and objections – *again, again and again*, their scepticism, their doubting, and their contradiction - kept them in the dark, unable to see Jesus in the way this man saw Jesus.

#### **3. Disciples seeking revelation**

This is a passage about a man without *sight*, leaders without *insight* but also about disciples seeking *revelation*

The disciples didn't know what to make of the situation before them: why was this man born blind – right from birth? They needed revelation.

Sometimes we also do not know what to make of the situations that surround us. Looking at the world right now, we don't know what to make of so much death in the

world, wars and rumours of wars, this pestilence that has come over every country on the planet.

The disciples offered a theory that seemed to fit with what they believed: maybe there was sin. (Sometimes we do that as well – we offer our own theories)

**V.3** - *Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be **revealed** in him.*

He used the word ‘*revealed*’ because what follows is revelation. Revelation is more than intellectual insight: it is the unveiling of truth that sets people free, it is a word that doesn’t just *inform* but *preforms*.

**Deuteronomy 29:29** - *The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are **revealed** belong to us and to our children forever...*

### **a) A revelation of the works of God**

V.3 ... “*that the works of God should be **revealed** in him*”.

God intervenes in our broken world. Our world is fallen, broken and sick but God is a healing God. That is His work, that is what He does.

God does exactly what we see that needs to happen in the world right now. He has exactly what mankind needs. And that is why He wants to bring people to a place where they believe Jesus.

### **b) A revelation of the will and intent of God**

His will is expressed in His works, His will is consistent with his works. If healing is His work, then healing is His will.

### **c) A revelation of the mission of Jesus**

**V.4** – “*I must work the works of Him who sent Me*”

Healing was at least 1/3 of the ministry of Jesus. He was always reaching out to people that were hurting in all kinds of ways.

**Luke 4:18-19** - <sup>18</sup> “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>9</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*”

**Acts 10:38** - *how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

### **d) A revelation of the nature of God**

**V.5** – *I am the light of the world*

**1 John 1:5** - *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

**James 1:17** - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

There is no 'dark side' in God!

### **Conclusion**

As I said at the start, this is a passage about a man without sight, leaders without insight and disciples seeking revelation.

But more than anything, I believe that this is a passage about Jesus – how He opens the eyes of the physically blind and the eyes of the rest of us regarding the nature of God, His will, and His works when we have no explanation for all that happens around us. So let us receive this revelation and communicate it to a hurting world.