

How Jesus Deals with Our Questions

Opening Text: John 9:1- 38

1. As Jesus passed by...

It was winter in Jerusalem and the Jewish Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) was in full swing when this took place (10:22). Jerusalem would have been filled with people celebrating and rededicating their lives afresh to God. But lost in the crowd, there was a man blind from birth. Unlike those attending the festivities, his life was without excitement, and confined to the only thing he could do every day of his life: to beg.

a) “*As Jesus passed by*” ... - What comes after that statement is another story of a life that was touched, never to be the same again. Wherever Jesus went miracles always followed.

b) “*As Jesus passed by, He saw*”

Jesus is an attentive Jesus. He sees! In Genesis 16:13, God revealed Himself as “*the God Who sees me*” (El-Roi). He is an attentive God. His eyes are upon us. Jesus saw - God is observant.

When God created the world, Genesis says 6 times: *God saw that everything He made was good!* After that, He created man from the dust of the earth, blessed him and for a 7th time we read, “*and God saw everything He had made and indeed it was very good*” (Gen.1:31). Man became the masterpiece of His creation. Now when Jesus came into this place, He saw something that didn’t match the standard of Genesis. The condition of this man did not reflect the original design and intent of God for mankind.

The fall of man, our betrayal of God, brought with it tragic consequences at so many levels. However, God never stopped looking at His creation and for that reason He sent Jesus!

c) “*As Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth*”

Here it doesn’t say ‘*and God saw that it was good*’ – because it wasn’t! But Jesus did something:

V.6b - ... “*He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.*”

The last time God had touched the dust of the earth was when He created man (Gen.2:7). Here God bends down once more, and again touches the dust, and a creative miracle takes place.

2. And His disciples asked Him...

V.2 – “*And His disciples asked Him saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?*”

- a) Jesus was clearly more interested to **perform** this miracle than to **inform** their curiosity.

Jesus proved to be more than a simple **educator**: He is the **Creator!**

Rabbis were educators: they provided answers to curious minds. Jesus is the Creator: He provides miracles, solutions, and breakthrough. He hardly ever dealt with question marks, but with Him there were only exclamation marks:

John 9:30^b - ... *He has opened my eyes!*

- b) Jesus and His disciples saw different things about this situation. The disciples saw an opportunity for a deep theological debate about '*why do bad things happen to good people*'. They wanted to know the answer to the million-dollar question'. However, Jesus clearly had a different perspective: He saw not just some academic case study, some anonymous human being but He saw a man He could reach, a life He could touch!

3. Jesus chose a million-dollar miracle above the "million dollar question"!

Jesus saw someone He could touch. He saw a blind man, but also someone **condemned and humiliated**.

He was someone **rejected socially**. The whole of his life he must have heard people saying that he had done something to deserve this – himself or his parents.

He must have carried **inferiority and low self-esteem**. He must have suffered **loneliness and abandonment**.

Not only that, but he was **poor – a beggar, a social parasite**. Probably people spat when they walked past him as a sign of disgust.

The disciples wanted the answer to a question, but Jesus is more than the answer to a single question: He is THE answer in a much broader sense: He said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6).

Jesus was the answer to this man's situation at so many levels:

When He came into His life, everything changed! The man was made whole, complete, in every area of his life.

Not only his blindness was removed but also

- His condemnation
- His shame
- The source of his rejection and humiliation
- The reason for his poverty (he could now go and get a job)
- His inferiority (he became so bold that he confronted the teachers of the law and lectured them)

- And at the end, he got the greatest revelation of all: Jesus found him and revealed Himself as the Son of God!

Jesus passed by this man and his whole world changed. He was healed physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, etc. The people who knew him previously even had doubts that it could be the same person. He had to tell them: I am he.

V.8-9 - *Therefore the neighbours and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" 9Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."*

All of that because Jesus passed by.

Concluding thoughts:

Let me just say that what Jesus does with our lives, is infinitely more important than what He does with our questions.

I cannot find a passage in the gospels with more questions: We read the question that the disciples asked and also the many questions of the pharisees and teachers of the law. There are almost 30 verses of repeated questions, again and again.

Jesus didn't do much with their questions, but he did a lot for this man. And that needs to be our focus: **trusting Jesus to change our lives, trusting even when we don't understand.**

As I said, **Jesus was more interested to *perform* (his word) than to *inform* (their curiosity), to *create* (miracles) more than to *educate* (their minds)!**

There will always be areas of mystery – that is precisely why we need to trust Him. Our faith is needed in the fog, not in the sunny days when we can find the way for ourselves.

In fact, if there was someone who could have probably asked questions was the blind man. However, he never asked Jesus any question. He simply obeyed His word, went to the pool and came back with his miracle.

In his last interaction with Jesus, he simply said, "*Lord I believe and worshipped Him*" (in fact the word 'believe;' is repeated 3 times). It is of greater benefit to obey, believe and worship... no questions asked, simply to completely trust Jesus.

There will always be areas of mystery – that is precisely why we need to trust Him. Our faith is needed in the fog, not in the sunny days when we can find the way for ourselves.

Proverbs 3:5 - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;*