

LESSON VIII.

THE MAN BORN BLIND

August 19, 1900

John 9: 1-17. Commit to memory vs. 4-7.

1 And as Je'sus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, ¹Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he ²was born blind?

3 Je'sus answered, Neither ³hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

4 ⁴I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

5 ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and ⁶he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went ⁷this way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

8 The neighbours, therefore, and they which ⁸before had seen him that he was ⁹blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

9 ⁹Some said, This is he: others said, He is like

Revised Version—¹Rabbi: ²Should be; ³Did this man sin: ⁴We; ⁵When; ⁶Anointed his eyes with the clay; ⁷Away; ⁸Saw him aforetime; ⁹A beggar; ¹⁰Others said, It is he: others said, No, but he is like him. He said; ¹¹Then; ¹²Omit the pool of; ¹³So I went away; ¹⁴Bring; ¹⁵Now; ¹⁶On the; ¹⁷Again therefore; ¹⁸From; ¹⁹Signs; ²⁰Therefore; ²¹In that he hath opened.

EXPLANATION

Connecting Link—Jesus is now in Jerusalem, at the joyous Feast of Tabernacles. (ch. 7: 2; Lev. 23: 34-43.) The Pharisees seek to kill Him. (John 8: 59.) It is only a few months till their purpose will be accomplished.

1. **Passed by; on the Sabbath** (v. 14), probably on the way to or from the Temple. (See Acts 3: 2.) **Blind from his birth;** and therefore incurable. Even yet, only rarely those born blind can be cured.

2, 3. **Who did sin?** The common belief was that such misfortunes were a direct judgment for the person's own sin or that of some ancestor. (So Job's friends.) **Jesus answered.** Light from heaven will now be thrown upon the problem. **But that the works of God;** that the power of Christ might be displayed, and so the man himself and others be led into Christ's Kingdom. God works in strange ways.

4, 5. **We must work** (Rev. Ver.). Jesus here reminds His disciples of their share of responsibility with Him. **The works of Him that sent me;** miracles of power and mercy, leading to miracles of pardon and grace. **The night cometh;** when the day of life closes at death. Jesus knew that the miracles would hasten His death; but He does not hesitate. **I am the light of the world.** See chs. 1: 5, 9; 3: 19; 8: 12; 12: 35, 36. Like the sun in the heavens, Jesus, because He is God, and because the God-like shone forth in all His words and works, is "this dark world's light." He sheds light. He opens men's eyes to see the light.

6, 7. **Clay . . . spittle.** (See Mark 7:

Read Luke 9: 57-62; John 7: 2 to 9: 41.

him: **but** he said, I am he.

10 Therefore said they unto him, How ¹¹were thine eyes opened?

11 He answered and said, A man that is called Je'sus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go ¹²to the pool of Siloam, and wash: ¹³and I went and washed, and I received sight.

12 Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

13 They ¹⁴brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

14 ¹⁵And it was the sabbath ¹⁶day when Je'sus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

15 ¹⁷Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes and I washed, and do see.

16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not ¹⁸of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such ¹⁹miracles? And there was a division among them.

17 They say ²⁰unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, ²¹that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

33; 8: 23); supposed remedies. Jesus makes them effective. **Go wash.** (See 2 Kings 5: 10.) It was a strong test of the man's faith. **Pool of Siloam;** the Siloam of Isa. 8: 6, flowing from under Mt. Zion. The word means **Sent.** It was the type of the Kingdom sent by God into the world. **Came seeing.** The divine power had made the appointed means effective.

8, 9. **The neighbours** were greatly puzzled. They could scarcely believe their own eyes. **I am he.** The beggar man is, as we shall further see, princely in his straightforward testimony.

10-12. **A man . . . called Jesus.** He is well known by this time in the city. **Where is he? . . . I know not.** The man is cautious as well as brave.

13, 14. **To the Pharisees;** who claimed to decide all religious questions. **The Sabbath day;** their ground of attack. They would sooner see the day observed according to their own forms than a blind man cured.

15-17. **Then again.** The man is as honest and brave as ever, even before these great Pharisees. **There was a division.** See previous part of verse. There were men like Nicodemus (7: 50, 51) amongst the Pharisees. **What sayest thou?** The "thou" is emphatic. **"Thou oughtest to know since he hath opened thine eyes."** **A prophet;** a man sent from God. (See 3: 2; 4: 19.) Read the rest of the story and see how this simple man, with clear faith in Jesus, utterly routs the haughty Pharisees, and how he himself comes to the full knowledge of the Son of God.