

What's on Your List?

Introduction

- How many of you put together a “to do” list each week?
- My weekly Sunday night routine
- What's on your list for this week?
- Open your Bibles to John 9

John 9

John 9:1-41

- John often records his stories in the format of a Greek theater performance – where there are 3 main characters in each scene

1-7 *Scene 1 = Jesus, the Disciples, the man*

- 1** *As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.*
- 2** *And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"*
- 3** *Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*
- 4** *We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.*
- 5** *While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."*
- 6** *When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,*
- 7** *and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam " (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing.*

8-12 *Scene 2 = Neighbors, Neighbors, the man*

- 8** *Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?"*
- 9** *Others were saying, "This is he," still others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one."*
- 10** *So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?"*
- 11** *He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight."*
- 12** *They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."*

13-17 *Scene 3 = Pharisees, Neighbors, the man*

- 13** *They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind.*
- 14** *Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.*
- 15** *Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see."*
- 16** *Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.*
- 17** *So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet."*

18-34 *Scene 4 = Pharisees, Parents, the man*

- 18** *The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight,*
- 19** *and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"*
- 20** *His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;*
- 21** *but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself."*
- 22** *His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.*
- 23** *For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."*
- 24** *So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner."*
- 25** *He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*
- 26** *So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"*
- 27** *He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?"*
- 28** *They reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.*
- 29** *"We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from."*
- 30** *The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes.*
- 31** *"We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.*

- 32** *"Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.*
- 33** *"If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."*
- 34** *They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out.*

35-41 *Scene 5 = Jesus, the man, Pharisees*

- 35** *Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*
- 36** *He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"*
- 37** *Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."*
- 38** *And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.*
- 39** *And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."*
- 40** *Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?"*
- 41** *Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.*

Presentation of Jesus in His Divinity

- He creates – which only God does (1, 7)
- He claims the name of God – “I am” (5)
- He requires and accepts faith in Him – which only God does (35-38)
- He accepts worship – which only God, rightly, does (38)
- He sits in judgment for sin (39)
- He gives forgiveness (41)

The Man’s Spiritual Growth

- Scene 1** *Nothing (1)*
- Scene 2** *“the man called Jesus” (11)*
- Scene 3** *“he is a prophet” (17)*
- Scene 4** *“from God” (33)*
- Scene 5** *“son of Man” (35-38)*

- The biggest change in the man wasn’t the removal of his physical blindness but in the removal of his spiritual blindness and his spiritual growth

Application / Challenge

- Is Spiritual Growth on your weekly “to do” list?
 - ✓ Not just spiritual activity (church attendance, Bible reading, prayer, etc.) but growing as a disciple
 - ✓ Definition of a disciple – one who is becoming like Jesus
 - ✓ Characteristics of a disciple – submission to Jesus, knowing Jesus’ words, continuation of Jesus’ ministry, imitation of Jesus’ life, multiplication of Jesus’ disciples
 - ✓ Are you more like Jesus today than you were a week ago?
- Is your becoming like Jesus a top priority on your “to do” list or do other concerns take priority?
 - ✓ Consider his parents concern about being put out of the synagogue (22) – reality Christians were facing at the time John writes
 - ✓ What will you sacrifice to become like Jesus?
- Is helping others to become disciples, to become like Jesus, on your “to do” list?
 - ✓ Consider the man’s question to the Pharisees – “*Do you also want to become his disciples?*” (27)
 - ✓ Look at your “to do” list: where is your disciple – the person you are helping to become like Jesus?
- How does your “to do” list reflect your desire, your obedience, your commitment to become like Jesus and to help others to become like Him?
 - ✓ What do you need to submit to Him?
 - ✓ What part of His work are you learning and applying (not just reading)?
 - ✓ What part of His ministry are you taking up or continuing?
 - ✓ What character of His life is being developed in your life?
 - ✓ Who are you helping to become like Him?
- If your “to do” list represents the pursuit of a disciple, good for you – keep at it
- If your “to do” list doesn’t reflect the pursuit of a disciple, don’t be discouraged or defeated – God has still given you time and strength to begin today, again or for the first time, to make it a priority and prominent part of your life