

DCF 290320

Homework for John 9

Read John 9 to see the context.

Spit: Pliny the Roman collector of what was then called scientific information, writes about spittle, usually it referred to fasting spittle. It was used for snake bites, as a protection against lichens and leprous spots, ophthalmia, carcinomas, crick in the neck, averting the evil eye, and burns. So, this is not seen as an unclean action by Jesus.

Pool of Siloam:

To protect the city's water supply during the siege, Hezekiah undertook a strategic engineering project that would be an impressive feat in any age: He ordered the digging of a 1,750-foot tunnel under the City of David to bring water from the Gihon Spring, which lay outside the city wall, inside the city to a pool on the opposite side of the ridge. In the years that followed, "Hezekiah's Tunnel" continued to carry fresh water to this section of Jerusalem, and different pools were built here over the centuries, including the Second Temple pool that Jesus knew.

2 Chron 32:2-8 ² *And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem,* ³ *he consulted with his leaders and commanders to stop the water from the springs which were outside the city; and they helped him.* ⁴ *Thus many people gathered together who stopped all the springs and the brook that ran through the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?"* ⁵ *And he strengthened himself, built up all the wall that was broken, raised it up to the towers, and built another wall outside; also he repaired the Millo in the City of David, and made weapons and shields in abundance.* ⁶ *Then he set military captains over the people, gathered them together to him in the open square of the city gate, and gave them encouragement, saying,* ⁷ *"Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him.* ⁸ *With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles."* *And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.*

V30 ³⁰ *This same Hezekiah also stopped the water outlet of Upper Gihon, and brought the water by tunnel to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah prospered in all his works.*

What was amazing was that the tunnel was in places only 600mm wide with an average height of 1.8m. it zigzagged for 533m. The engineers began their cutting from both ends and met in the middle. A tablet discovered in 1880 describes the excitement when the workmen were just

3 cubits apart (3x46cm = 1.38m). There was 100 cubits of rock above them (46m) when they met each other.

The Jews in the time of Isaiah saw the amazing work, but missed the hand of God.

Is 22:9 You also saw the damage to the city of David,

That it was great;

And you gathered together the waters of the lower pool.

¹⁰You numbered the houses of Jerusalem,

And the houses you broke down

To fortify the wall.

¹¹You also made a reservoir between the two walls

For the water of the old pool.

But you did not look to its Maker,

Nor did you have respect for Him who fashioned it long ago.

Hezekiah was a good king, and the city was saved for the time being, but people miss the hand of God. Siloam means 'sent' because the water was sent through the tunnel to save the people. Jesus sent the blind man to wash – for something bigger than seeing. There are times in our life when we are sent. Be alert for those times.

2 Kings 20:20 ²⁰Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah—all his might, and how he made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

God has shown His grace to Australia time and time again, but we have ignored it. NSW boasted of their Mardi Gras. The judgement of God came with bushfires, floods and now Corona – but no one makes the link. Have they read the prophets? Look at the opening chapters of Jeremiah and Isaiah to see the heart of God. Hear His heart when He says to His people in Jer 2:19 ... ***and the fear of Me is not in you.***

'Give Glory to God'

John 9:24 is a reference to Joshua 7:19 ¹⁹Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."

In the sin of Achan, Joshua encourages him to confess. He does confess and is still punished along with all his family.

²⁴Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all

that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So, all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

Confession does not mean we escape the repercussions of our sin. But it does mean that we confirm the authority of God.

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Your Home service.

Prayer:

Lord, it is obvious that Satan wants to disrupt churches all over the world. He wants Christians to break their commitment to worship and to not have fellowship with each other. But Your Word and our experience is that You can make all things work together for good to those who love You and are called according to Your purpose.

So, we pray for Your people throughout the world, that we will stand strong for You. And we pray especially for those at DCF, that we will stand strong for You.

We pray for MENTION THOSE PEOPLE WHO GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART.

We pray for protection over their health – especially for the old and the vulnerable. MENTION THOSE PEOPLE WHO GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART.

We pray for protection over their employment and finances. MENTION THOSE PEOPLE WHO GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART.

We pray that family relationships will be strengthened and not broken. MENTION THOSE PEOPLE WHO GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART.

We pray that we will be made aware of those who need help – whether its finances, food, or just a phone call. MENTION THOSE PEOPLE WHO GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART. Tell God what you will do about it – say it aloud.

We pray for our government – for wisdom to do what is right and necessary. MENTION LEADERS and POLITICIANS WHO GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART.

Now as we open your Word, we ask for YOUR anointing – to hear Your Spirit, so that we walk with You.

Amen

SONG: Cornerstone

Choose your own song or try this one.

Copy (Cntrl C) and paste (Cntrl V) onto google and press enter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI>

"Cornerstone"

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness

I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When Darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all
He is Lord
Lord of all

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

PRAYER:

Pray for yourself to remain strong.

Lord Jesus you are the rock I need to stand on.
 I do not stand on finances or health or success.
 I do not trust the things of the world a or the plans of people.
 I stand only on You – Your Word is my rock.
 These are my worries Lord and I place them before you:
 PLACE YOUR WORRIES IN THE LAP OF GOD.

SONG:

Choose your own song or try this one.

Copy (Cntrl C) and paste (Cntrl V) onto google and press enter.

[Goodness Of God \(LIVE\) - Jenn Johnson | VICTORY - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)www.youtube.com

I love You, Lord
 For Your mercy never failed me
 All my days, I've been held in Your hands
 From the moment that I wake up
 Until I lay my head
 Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God
 And all my life You have been faithful
 And all my life You have been so, so good
 With every breath that I am able
 Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God
 I love Your voice
 You have led me through the fire
 And in darkest night You are close like no other
 I've known You as a Father
 I've known You as a Friend
 And I have lived in the goodness of God, yeah!
 And all my life You have been faithful, oh
 And all my life You have been so, so good
 With every breath that I am able
 Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God, yeah!
 'Cause Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now
 I give You everything
 'Cause Your goodness is running after, it's running after me, oh-oh

'Cause Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
 With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now
 I give You everything
 'Cause Your goodness is running after, it keeps running after me
 And all my life You have been faithful
 And all my life You have been so, so good
 With every breath that I am able
 Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God
 I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna sing
 'Cause all my life You have been faithful
 And all my life You have been so, so good
 With every breath that I am able
 Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God
 Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

PRAYER:

Give thanks for the goodness of God. Here are some suggestions that may trigger thoughts:

- Your parents and siblings.
- Old friends.
- Finances
- Marriage
- Health
- Church
- The times when you learnt more about God.
- Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God
 I love Your voice
 You have led me through the fire
 And in darkest night You are close like no other.

Remember the hardest times in your life when God came with you through the valley of the shadow of death. These were times when we were refined by fire.

1 Peter 1:3-9 A Heavenly Inheritance

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in

heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

The “end of our faith” is not prosperity, nor good health nor popularity, nor any of the world’s goals. It is salvation. That is the faithfulness of God – that despite all our repeated failures – we can still greatly rejoice for all eternity with Him.

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

SONG:

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Copy and paste

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eQ1oal44wU>

This version has a couple of new verses – but they are good. Enjoy – and thank God for His faithfulness.

Prayer:

Lord as I read through the sermon and listen to the audio, I pray for Your Spirit to teach me things from Your Word. It does not matter that Rob is not speaking from the pulpit, what matters is You and me. So, I pray for Your anointing – to hear Your Spirit, and be moved close to Your heart, so that I will walk more closely with You.

At the end of this time Lord I want to score for You. In this time of a pandemic, I want to bring glory to Your name. On my own I cannot do that. But if You walk with me, we can plant seeds together – for Your kingdom.

Please be with others from DCF or whoever is following these notes.

We ask for Your blessing in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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John 9:1-12 A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

9 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. ⁴ I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

It is a common fallacy that all the evil in the world is personalized – so that we get only what is coming for us. The Jews connected suffering and sin. But babies die and persecution of the innocent is prevalent. Nonetheless, the fact that judgement also does happen, just means we need the discernment of God, to see the cause of suffering. God speaks to Baruch, the scribe and friend of Jeremiah, at a time when Jerusalem had been besieged. *Jer 45:5 Thus says the LORD: "Behold, what I have built I will break down, and what I have planted I will pluck up, that is, this whole land. ⁵ And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh," says the LORD. "But I will give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go."*

Jesus is not saying that neither the man nor his parents were sinless. But He is saying that God uses the suffering in the world for His glory.

Sin entered the world at the fall, and all creation fell. *Rom 5:12 ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.* We also see that our sins have repercussions for future generations. *Ex 20:5 For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,...* Everything we do, whether good or bad, has repercussions. As we read passages like Jer 11 we see how a disobedient people brings judgement on themselves. *Jer 11:3 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant ⁴ which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, 'Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God,' ⁵ that I may establish the oath which I have sworn to your fathers, to give them 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' as it is this day." ' ' "*

... ⁸ Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done.'

But God uses the blind man to teach people that Jesus is the light of the world. Everything we have in the physical is given to us to understand the spiritual. That is, what I call, the Parable principle which Jesus uses often. The book of Job of course teaches us that not all calamities are the result of our sin.

And Romans 8:28 reminds us that God covers us so ***that ... we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*** ²⁹ ***For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*** ³⁰ ***Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*** But our expectation of 'good' usually differs from God's plan for us. God's plan is that we conform to the image of Jesus. Does God look at clothes, car, house, bank account for 'image'? – No. He looks at heart. Did Jesus suffer? Get attacked? - Yes. But in all our hardships, and calamities we stand on this truth: we have been predestined and called, and justified, and glorified. The believer engulfed and battered by suffering can stand as a beacon for the peace of God.

When Jesus states in John 9:3 ***'that the works of God should be revealed in him'***; the works of God must also be revealed in us. Our lives, with all the impact on our finances, health and family, must reveal the works of God.

Jesus blatantly states: ***the night is coming when no one can work.*** ⁵ ***As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*** The night is death. We only have this short period of time to score for God. Jesus sets the bar – as long as He is alive, He wants to show people God. This is the same goal we need. Our time with certain people is limited, and we don't know how long some situations will last. When the Spirit of God opens doors in people's hearts, if that door is closed, it may never open again. After the age of 30, very few people become believers.

John 9:6 ⁶ ***When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.*** ⁷ ***And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.***

The man had been born blind, like all people have been born in sin, unable to see the things of the spirit. Jesus uses mud and spit – both ordinary materials to bring sight to the blind man. Have you ever thought that God cannot use you, because you lack experience, education, you're no good at public speaking, you're the wrong age or gender? Jesus deliberately did not use the expensive medicine of the day. He uses clay and His spit. Even His spit is anointed.

God desires to pour out His spirit on this land. And even the lowliest and most minute touch of the Holy Spirit on the most ordinary believer, will bring the light of the gospel to people. We see in v16 that this happened on the Sabbath. Now kneading clay on the Sabbath was forbidden in the Pharisee's oral tradition. So, Jesus is changing the rules. This is the new covenant.

Ez 36:25 ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

The man had to do something – he had to go and wash. The clay would have been uncomfortable and itchy. But the man was obedient - he had nothing to lose. There are so many times in our life when hope is dashed, but for this man at this time, with his hope in the words of Jesus, it was amazing.

John 9:8 ⁸ Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" ⁹ Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." ¹⁰ Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." ¹² Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

The explanation was very simple and astounding.

John 9:13 ¹³ They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

¹⁶ Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

One of the strategies of Satan is to get believers to condemn each other by looking at the flesh. Our criteria must be spiritual. Has the Kingdom of God advanced by an action? In this case, it is a definite 'YES'. They had not looked behind the Sabbath rule. God made the rule so that we would program in our lives a fixed time every week to spend time with Him. Our Father knows that without the rule we would wander away from Him. We can be so scoffing of these religious rules and still break the Father's heart, by giving Him no time in our week.

John 9:16 ***Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. ¹⁹ And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then 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 by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

These are the politically correct parents who do not want any trouble. In Matt 12:30 Jesus sets the bar. ***³⁰ He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*** There is no neutral standing for our witness. If we are passive then we are dead. The proof of whether you are alive in Christ is not the sum of your failures, but the evidence of your battle. ***Rom 8:13 NAS... if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*** The parents simply did not want to fight for righteousness. I remember being outside GGS chapel, talking to a parent, and I had a thought from God. I had 1 second to speak it out and I stifled it. The opportunity was gone. We must pray for an alertness and boldness to score for God.

John 9:24 ***²⁴ So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ Then they said to him again, "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? Do you also want to become His disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."***

³⁰ The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! ³¹ Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. ³² Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. ³³ If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

³⁴ They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out.

We read in *John 12:42* that in fact ⁴² ***Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*** So, watch out for the bullies. Encouragement is good and very necessary but watch out for the praises of men.

True Vision and True Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” ³⁶ He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” ³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him. ³⁹ And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” ⁴⁰ Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.

If, having seen the character and love of Jesus and heard His teaching and witnessed the miracles they still did not believe they remained condemned. *John 3:18* ⁸ ***“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*** Jesus had come into the world for judgement, that those who were handicapped could see and have life in the Spirit; and those who pride themselves in the flesh, would be made blind so that they could not see the Spirit.

These Jews knew so much, had so much and yet missed the fact that Jesus was the Son of God. The blind man started by meeting the man Jesus. ¹¹ ***He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay... As the encounter progressed, he realized God was involved and Jesus was at least a prophet. V17 He said, “He is a prophet. Finally, he believes in the Son of God. He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” ³⁶ He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” ³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.***

PRAYER: Lord we pray for an increasing depth in our walk with You. We are blind to so many things in our life, in our family and in our nation. Please open our eyes and use us like You used the mud and spit, that we may bring You great glory, especially in these difficult times. Amen

Final song: I am His and He is Mine.

Copy (Cntrl C) and paste (Cntrl V) onto google and press enter or play.

<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/284>

Loved with everlasting love,
Led by grace that love to know;
Spirit, breathing from above,
Thou hast taught me it is so.
Oh, this full and perfect peace!
Oh, this transport all divine!
In a love which cannot cease,
I am His, and He is mine.

2

Heaven above is softer blue,
Earth around is sweeter green;
Something lives in every hue
Christless eyes have never seen:
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow,
Flow'rs with deeper beauties shine,
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His, and He is mine.

3

Things that once were wild alarms
Cannot now disturb my rest;
Closed in everlasting arms,
Pillowed on the loving breast.
Oh, to lie forever here,
Doubt and care and self resign,
While He whispers in my ear,
I am His, and He is mine.

4

His forever, only His:
Who the Lord and me shall part?
Ah, with what a rest of bliss
Christ can fill the loving heart.
Heaven and earth may fade and flee,
Firstborn light in gloom decline;
But, while God and I shall be,
I am His, and He is mine.

FINAL PRAYER:

Lord in these difficult days, I want to thank You that I am absolutely safe in Your arms. I belong to You and that's all that matters. Everything else can fall apart, but what remains strong – even invincible, is that I belong to You and You are my God, my Father, my Savior, my Friend, my Teacher.

Thank You wonderful God. Amen.