

June 2016

Rev, Chuck Rains

Miracles Show Jesus is the Messiah

The Lord has heard us, He has answered prayer to bring Vicki Hague through the surgery this last week. Proof of the Lord's care and His presence. Proof of our need to really just lay ourselves in His hands. Trust Him. Let Him show His care for us. Father thank you so much that you have brought Vicki through this surgery I thank you for those that have prayed I think that I pray that they might take encouragement from the fact that you have heard and you have answered and you have proved your faithfulness for Vicki. I thank you that she trusted you with her very life. And she knows in a sure way today that she can trust you every step of the way. Truly she can sing, I need thee every hour. We all do, Lord. teach us to trust you more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Matt. 11:2-6

2And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

4Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

I start with a question for you. how is it or how can people know that it's Jesus who changed your life. You know when John the Baptist sent disciples to Jesus to ask him if he was truly the Messiah or should they look for somebody else he gave them. An answer in Matthew 11 Jesus speaks to the disciples that John's present and he speaks to the people around him here right at the beginning of the chapter. I'm going to read it verse 2 "and when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3 and said to him are You the Coming One, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind

see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of me.”

That's not an offense. “You should just leave that baby.” (*Encouragement for a mother to stay in the service to hear the message,*) Stay right here. I know parents are very sensitive about that, and they don't want to disturb you with their little one's cries, but I think it's sweet, so I don't mind it.

What does it mean not to be offended in him when he says blessed is he who is not offended because of me I think it means this blessed is the one who is not ashamed of me. Ashamed to make him known, shame to claim him as your own. Is he really the Messiah? Well he said look at these things that are going on. I don't think you'll get the power of that unless I remind you that in the Old Testament we were told that there were certain miracles that God would not allow to be performed until the Messiah came.

There are a lot of miracles in the Old Testament. Miracles especially at the time of Moses, time of Elijah, time of Elisha, and there were some smattering of other miracles. certainly in the time of Joseph, time of Daniel. However you might categorize miracles whether by vision or by working listen God tells us. There were certain miracles that were not going to happen until the Messiah came and since God is the power behind all miracles that are of truth.

I have to be careful to say that because we found out at the court of Egypt that Satan does have power limited power, but he does have power to work certain levels of miracles you remember sorcerers, they're really sorcerers, you can call them priests, whatever you want, of the Egyptian religion, when they saw Moses' staff become a serpent, they cast down their staffs and they became serpents. That was not of God. That was of Satan. But God had Moses' serpent eat up all the other serpents, which was God's way of saying, Satan has power, but it's limited, and my power is greater.

So it is. God is the author of true miracle. You have to ask whether the miracle praises him. I'm glad I have that out of the way. I won't have to do that anymore. So I'm going to send you back with me to Isaiah, chapter 35. because it's rather important that you find out what God says in his word about the Messiah when he comes.

Isa. 35:3-6

3Strengthen the weak hands,

And make firm the feeble knees.

4Say to those who are fearful-hearted,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
With the recompense of God;
He will come and save you.”
5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
6Then the lame shall leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the dumb sing.
For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness,
And streams in the desert.

In fact, in chapter 35, verse 3, he says, “Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.” By the way, this is a verse that's quoted in the book of Hebrews. “4Say to those who are fearful hearted be strong do not fear behold your God will come with vengeance with the recompense of God he will come and save you” They actually look forward not just to a man coming. The promise was that God himself would come. How would they know it Isaiah by prophecy given to him by the Spirit of God gives these proofs in verse 5 and 6 “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. Now when you pass that part that I just read you get into some things that are going to happen, but they're not going to happen until the Lord comes back to set up his kingdom. Knowing where to draw the line verses between those things that related to His first coming, his human body coming, his incarnation, and those things that relate to his next coming when he comes to set up his kingdom. Knowing where to draw that line is very, very important.

Isa. 61:1-2a

1“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,

For instance, in this book of Isaiah, chapter 61, Jesus was in the synagogue of Nazareth early in his ministry. And he was given the scroll of Isaiah to read. And he began to read at verse 1 of chapter 61. “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor.” Now one thing that Jesus told John's disciples was to go back and tell him, the poor have the gospel preached to them. Here's the prophecy.

Here's the prophecy. To preach good tidings to the poor. Good tidings. That's another way of saying the gospel, the good news. To preach the good tidings to the poor. That's what was happening that John's disciples should bring back a report about. It was the fulfillment of these prophecies in Isaiah. The eyes of the blind would be open, the lame would walk, the dumb would speak. The poor would have the gospel preached to them oh yes and the dead would be raised. These are prophecies all related to how to know who the Messiah is, but he read on. "He has sent me to heal the broken hearted to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord," And he stopped there. He didn't read the rest of the verse. Why? Because what he has read here relates to his first coming. To his coming as a son of Mary, as a Son of God incarnate, to give his life. These things were going to be fulfilled. The things that go after this were not going to be fulfilled then.

Therefore later, just like these things in chapter 35 that I read, I stopped at the reading of the miracles because the things that were going to happen in the natural creation, the beauty in the natural creation, the peace among the animals of the natural creation, that's for the future. Why is that important? Well, it was important enough for Jesus to call it up, to use it to show to John's disciples That he was the Messiah. It was him. That's how they could know that he was truly the one that was sent by God. Because of all the fulfilled prophecies that he alone brought to pass.

How do people know that Jesus is in your life? I don't even know it's really Jesus that's made any difference in you.

I think there's this wonderful story here if you go with me back to John chapter 9. This wonderful story about a man who had a change that came in his life. Jesus made the difference you see never had a blind man received his sight until Jesus came. Jesus was the only one that could change this man's condition. Never had it ever been done. Now when John writes his gospel I thought I was through with that when John writes his gospel. He wants to show you that Jesus is not only the Christ but he is God. So he chooses things that don't necessarily show up in all the other gospels. This does not show up anywhere else.

Why would he devote a whole chapter to it? Because it tells you that Jesus opened the eyes of the blind. Now, not just anybody that was blind. but somebody that was blind from birth for a purpose that God had in mind. God wanted that baby when he was born. He wanted him to be blind. He had him grow up to manhood blind, because he had a purpose in having him be blind.

Nobody had ever had their sight given to them when they were blind. Certainly not one born that way.

And so it reads, John 9:1, 2

1Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

This little baby that we have seen here come here today. Precious baby. Doesn't know good and evil. Doesn't know right and wrong. Doesn't even know that there's a God. But this baby is a sinner. How so? He has never chosen to sin. He has never done anything wrong. That's true. He doesn't even understand sin. That's true. How can he be said to be a sinner? Well because the penalty of death is upon him even a little baby ages and moves towards death it's because of Adam's race it's because he's of human birth is because we are all born of the same origin of somebody that rebelled against God.¹

And the spirit that we have, and every one of us has a spirit given of God, is cut off from God. We're born with a spirit that doesn't know God. In that sense, we're sinners, not because we've done anything. And because we haven't done anything, I believe that that's why babies, when they are taken early in life, go to heaven. I believe that God in his grace receives them to himself. And I believe we have proof for that in the Old Testament².

But when we get to the place in life where we do know right and wrong we do make choices then we must choose a savior this little baby here in this chapter 9 of John was born blind he was born in darkness just like you were born in darkness of sin he was born in darkness of blindness. Just like Jesus is your only hope for salvation. Jesus would be his only hope for ever getting his sight because God said nobody would ever receive sight until the Messiah came. A blind person had no hope of ever being able to see until the Messiah came. Their only hope ever of being able to see is that the Messiah would open their eyes. Their only hope of seeing was the light of the world, Jesus himself.³

¹ Rom. 5:14; 1 Cor. 15:22;

² Robert Lightner Safe in the Arms of Jesus Kregel Grand Rapids, Mi. 96 pp. 2000
J. V. McGee Death Of A Little One https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mcgee_j_vernon/eBooks/death/death-of-a-little-child.cfm

³ Jn. 8:12

Our only hope of being changed from darkness to light, from blindness to eternal life, is in Jesus. It wasn't because this man sinned or his parents. It goes further back than that. Jesus answers,

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

See, we all come into this world this way. A lot of people have a theory that if some child is born with a defect, it's because their parents sin. Well, sometimes we can trace it back to a genetic problem that we carry along and give to our children. We like to look at our children when they're born and say oh this one looks like this person or that I see this trait in them I see that trait in them he's going to be intelligent he looks like me. Well we not only give them things that we might appreciate we also give them a lot of things like genes that may carry some things that we got from our grandparents or great-grandparents. And we don't necessarily even know that. We give them what we are. We can thank the Lord when they are relatively healthy, seem to be strong enough to go into life. We don't necessarily need to blame parents because a child may have an obvious defect. It's not by the will of the parent that that would be true. Believe me, no parent would.

I don't know about you, but some of the advertising I see touches me the most is an advertisement about the need to care for little children that are born with defects. Whether it's Danny Thomas' St. Jude's operation or whether it's the Shriners Hospital or Children's Hospital in Chicago, the thought of little ones not having the help they need to deal with the infirmities that they're given, it's heartbreaking. And I just have to thrill at the attitude some of those little kids have with the deformities that they have and how they still go on into life rather positive. It's amazing.

But the spiritual issue is the same for them, for us. no different we're born in darkness there's a symbolic issue here. Jesus says neither this man nor his parents sin verse 4

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

That's a spiritual message in the context of dealing with this man's physical blindness. But Jesus has told you that the reason this man was born blind was so that the works of God should be revealed in him. The purpose was that the works of God could be revealed in him. God has a spiritual purpose. and Jesus is saying verse 4 and 5 He's the spiritual light of the world he's trying

to draw a parallel between the miracle of giving this man sight and that he has the power to give life eternal to bring us out of the darkness of sin and into the light of righteousness and he alone can do that. He's the light of the world. There is no other.

6When 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

Now in the book of Job, when Job sits in the ash heap we come to realize with some help I didn't get this by myself believe me. Dr. Walter Wilson showed this to me. I come to realize with some help from doctors that the ash heap was the best place for him because the ashes had what we commonly call ed drawing power. The ashes could actually draw the pus out of his boils. And we used to have something we called drawing salve. I suppose they have the same thing, only call it something else. But what it was for us in my youth was when we had boils, we put this on and it helped draw the pus out of the boils. Well, that's what ashes did for Job. So we can see a physical connection between him being in the ash heap and his boils that Satan gave him.

I want to be quick to warn you not to look for that here. There is no medical, physical medical benefit in taking mud and rubbing it on the eyes of somebody that's blind. You could do that all day long to nine million people and it's not going to help them. You say, well, there might be some very hidden truth there. It might be some rare element that Jesus was putting on his eyes to help him. This is symbolic. He's rubbing mud on the guy's eyes. What's probably the one thing you wouldn't put on a blind man's eyes? Mud. Maybe water, but not mud. Mud speaks of darkness. Yes, it did. Jesus symbolically was saying, your eyes cannot see the dirt, the mud. Symbolic of that. go wash you need to be washed this darkness needs to be washed away.

7And 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 symbolism produced the miracle. The darkness was gone. The blindness was gone.

When you receive Jesus, is there anybody here today, and I ask myself this as well, that could tell somebody else exactly what it was that God did to you to change you from being a sinner to making you a child of God. Can you really explain that miracle? Not that it happened, not this is what it was, this is what it is. Tell me how he did it. Your answer would have to be, I don't know.

This man came back. People started asking him, hey, what happened to you?

8Therefore the neighbors 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."

10Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

11He 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."

Well, this man came, named Jesus. He made clay with spittle, and he put it on my eyes, sent me down to the pool of Siloam, told me to wash, and I did. And now I can see. Well, that didn't make a whole lot of sense to anybody.

Somebody said to you, well, how did you get to be a Christian? Well, I realized I was a sinner. And I came to God and I asked his forgiveness. And ask him to just wash me, make me clean. And you know, he did. And I'm clean from all my sin now. I'm a son of God. Well, that's nonsense, they would say. That's pure pie in the sky. Nothing really happened. Oh yes something happened to me I was blind now I see. I was dead now I'm alive. I was darkness now I'm light. I was the enemy of God now I love God. I actually have the Holy Spirit of God living in me assuring me, telling me I'm the child of God.

That is pure nonsense makes no sense that doesn't make any more sense than telling somebody you know, this fellow putting mud on my eyes told me to go wash in the pool, I washed, now I can see you say that's not possible what's the answer what happened at the pool of Salome was a miracle God's hand was involved God was doing something there that had never been done before and, he was doing it to prove that the one. He was using the Son of God, was in fact the Messiah. He himself was God. God incarnate. The miracle, and it was a miracle, was done to show that God was there. God was real. and he came away seeing. Nobody could deny that he could see. If you truly are saved and you know you have received Jesus as your Savior, you are different anybody that knows you will know that you're different.

They should now you can cover it up you can make it seem like you're not really very different but, you will be sensitive about sin more than ever before. You will want to choose to do what is right. You will actually want to talk to God about everything that comes across your path. You want to praise Him. You might even tell somebody that you love Him. To anybody that knows you, they would know that is not the you that you used to be. You're changed. Now I know that you can go back into the world and live like the world and you know that if you do God has not left you, He's not abandoned you, you've left him he'll talk to you and he'll be with you because, He's faithful and that's a further witness to you that you belong to Him.

13They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. 14Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15Then 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."

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

Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

This man couldn't deny that he could see how did this happen they asked the Pharisees they wanted to know how did this happen he told them how it happened. That wasn't good enough for them as far as they were concerned Jesus was a sinner. Why? Well, let me give you a little fine point. It happened to be the Sabbath day when he did this. What? Yes. Well, so what? Well, because the Pharisee said God said you can't work on a Sabbath day. And they knew that healing somebody from blindness was work. Besides that, they knew when he spit on the ground and made clay, rubbed it on his eyes, that was work. Why? Because the Pharisees had a law. that you could not spit on the ground on the Sabbath. Why? Because when your spittle hit the dust, it would turn the dust over like a furrow. And that would be just like plowing. And that's work. You say, surely they didn't go that far. Yes, they did. They weren't that far, and they were so committed to it that when Jesus did that on the Sabbath day, they called him a sinner. He couldn't be the Messiah. He couldn't be God. He was a sinner. He did evil, and the so-called miracle was not from God. It was from Satan.

You see, if your doctrine isn't right, When you take it out to the extreme, it gets more and more and more ugly. They tried to get this man to say that Jesus was a sinner.

25He 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."

He said, I don't know if he's a sinner or not. I just know this. I was blind. Now I can see. Well, what do you think he is? I think he's a prophet, the man said.

35Jesus 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?"

36He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

37And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

38Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

39And 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."

Jesus sought the man out, found him. He asked him a very critical question. Do you believe in the Son of God? Who is he, Lord? I'm ready. You tell me who he is. I'll believe in him. He said, I had to talk to you. Well, he said, very key words. Here's his words. I believe. He put his faith in the Lord. The miracle of the eyes being opened was a symbolic way of God saying, I can take away sin. But it still required the man coming to the place where he would say, I put my faith in Jesus. I believe. Just like the man had to obey Jesus and go to the pool and wash.

You can know you're a sinner. But if you don't come and actively seek the Lord and ask for forgiveness, The mud will stay there. When you come and you seek him out and ask his forgiveness, you have it. That man could see. And any sinner who asks Jesus to forgive them, wash them, make them clean, will be clean. and when you're changed when you're a new person in Jesus anybody that knows you will know it but don't be ashamed of him there's special blessing for those that won't be ashamed of him go ahead and let him be known.

Father thank you for your word thank you that you've done that
miracle in us who've trusted Jesus help us Lord not be ashamed be
willing to say you know I was blind but now I see I was dead but now I live
I live in Christ he's alive in me thank you thank you for making me clean
thank you for making me your child in Jesus name