John 9, Daily Devotions

❑ Monday - Who Makes Man Seeing Or Blind? John 9:1-3

"It's a boy!" came the happy announcement. But as days turned into weeks, joy gave way to despair – their baby boy was blind! (John 9:1). Growing up in Jerusalem in the first century, the blind man sat outside the temple, crying, "Alms, alms for the poor!" But his pleas were met more often with judgment than with mercy. Even Jesus' own disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" (John 9:2). Their's was the theology of Job's three "comforters" who assumed all suffering is the result of one's own personal sin (Job 4:7-8). But Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3). Perhaps Jesus' reply raises more questions than it answers. What or who made this man blind? The answer does not fit today's pop-theology, but the answer is God. "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" (Ex. 4:11). In God's sovereign plan this man was born blind "that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3). The truth is that God causes all things, even my afflictions, to work together for my good and His glory (Rom. 8:28), so that I can learn to rejoice always and in everything give thanks (1 Thess. 5:16-18). Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

❑ Tuesday - True Ministry. John 9:2

"And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?'" (Jn. 9:2). O how quickly we are to speculate about the sins of others, rather than to minister to them in their suffering. We would rather philosophize than to philanthropize. Read Matthew 25:34-40

❑ Wednesday - One Thing I Know. John 9:25

"One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see" (Jn. 9:25). This untaught, unlearned beggar stood up to the most highly educated skeptics of his day. He simply proclaimed what Christ had done in him. The one thing men can't explain is a life completely transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. Therefore, "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15). Read Colossians 4:5-6

❑ Thursday - Outcasts of Man-Made Religion. John 9:34

"They answered and said to him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?' And they put him out" (Jn. 9:34). The Pharisees couldn't handle this man's profession of what Jesus had done in his life and so they put him out of the synagogue; that is, they excommunicated him. The new Christian is an outcast of man-made religion. He has abandoned man-made religion and man-made religion has abandoned him. Relationship, not religion, is his new driving force. *Dead* religion cannot satisfy him for his soul thirsts for the *living* God (Psalm 42:2). Read Psalm 63:1

❑ Friday - The Son of Man, Messiah. John 9:35-38

Jesus heard that the Pharisees had put the blind man whom Jesus had healed out of the synagogue, "and finding him, He said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered and said, 'And who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.' And he said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshiped Him." (Jn. 9:35-38). To the Jews, the title "Son of Man" had Messianic connotations (cf. Dan. 7:13-14). Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed Prophet, Priest, and King. In all of these offices He has no successor: He is the final Prophet and Word of God to man; He is a High Priest forever and the one Mediator between God and man; and He is the King of kings and Lord of lord. Have you crowned him Lord of all the kingdoms of your heart? Read Phil. 2:9-11