

# DAY 2-TRUTH: JESUS DEMONSTRATED GOD'S POWER

## Jesus Healed a Blind Man (Psalm 146:8; Isaiah 35:5-6a; John 9:1-41)

A few years ago I received that wonderful letter in the mail— jury duty. My name was drawn for a trial and I found myself in the jury box as evidence was presented. We had to sort through compelling arguments and focus on facts and truth. Now, as I look at the chain of evidence God has provided, it amazes me that some still fail to see the truth and believe. God has provided more than a compelling argument. We can trace the facts and find the truth.

Several Old Testament passages reveal the types of ministry the Messiah would perform. Some of those verses are in today's Scripture passages. Psalm 146:8 points out our Lord's compassion for the most vulnerable. Isaiah 35:5-6a lists specific acts of mercy. The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap like deer, and the mute tongue will sing for joy. These are descriptions of not only healing, but transformation!

Today's New Testament section describes one of those healings. The disciples' question represented their current Jewish culture that assumed bad things were God's punishment for sin. Jesus' answer must have surprised them. First, Jesus said this happened for God's glory, not as the result of sin. Then He said, "I am the light of the world." Standing before a man who had never experienced light, Jesus declared Himself the LIGHT. People often asked Jesus for healing, but this time Jesus initiated the contact. Jesus spat on the ground, made mud, and spread the mud on the man's eyes. Then, Jesus told the man to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The easy thing to miss here is that the man had heard Jesus' voice and felt Jesus' hands on his eyes, but he had never seen Jesus.

When the man came back seeing, those who knew him weren't sure it was the same man. Apparently they had not witnessed Jesus' mud-making scene, nor helped the man to the pool. All they could do was chatter among themselves about whether he was the man they knew or someone who looked like him. The man kept saying, "I'm the one." They brought the man before the Pharisees who asked what had happened. Rather than celebrating an obvious miracle, the Pharisees focused on the fact that this healing had happened on the Sabbath.

The formerly blind man proved to be a faithful witness. He was unshaken by their efforts and asked, "You don't want to become His disciples too, do you?" The man reminded the temple leaders that throughout history there had been no record of a person being able to see who had been born blind. This is true. There are no Old Testament biblical nor extra-biblical sources that cite such a miracle. God had indeed orchestrated this miracle for His glory.

The angry temple officials threw the man out of the temple. Jesus heard what had happened, found the man, and asked if the man believed in the Son of God. "Who is He, that I may believe?" the man replied. Jesus said, "You have seen Him." What a powerful pronouncement. The man saw Jesus, the Light of the World, with his own eyes.

### Facts and Artifacts

In addition to connecting Old Testament prophecies with New Testament fulfillments, this week of VBS links each day to real archaeological finds that further emphasize the reality of what we read in the Bible.

#### Today's artifact: Pool of Siloam Steps

In June 2004, the steps leading to the Pool of Siloam were found! Workmen doing repair to a large water pipe south of Jerusalem's Temple Mount discovered two ancient stone steps. After further excavation, it was determined that the steps were part of a pool from the Second Temple, the Pool of Siloam. The structure was 225 feet long.

### Think About It

How has God used a difficulty in your life to show you something about Himself?