

Doing the Work of God John 9:1-12

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."

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.

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." NKJV

Remember from last week that the disciples bring up the philosophical question. But Jesus concern is not philosophy but rather that a blind man may see.

I do not think that it was that Jesus was not concerned about beliefs and ideas. But Jesus understood that the greatest need of the day was that man might see. Therefore he must go to the work. We find that Jesus often refers to the works of God that he must do.

Notice in this little paragraph by FB Meyer how Jesus often referred to them.

The phrase, "works of God," is a familiar one throughout this Gospel. To do them fed the Redeemer's soul (Jn 4:34 **Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**); they were in an ever ascending scale (Jn 5:20 **For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.**); they were of a certain definite number, given Him to finish (Jn 5:36 **But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.**); they were the signs and seals of His mission (Jn 10:38 **but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.**"); they were not His own, but wrought through Him by the Father (John 14:10); they were unique in the history of the world (Jn 16:24 **Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy**

may be full.); they were definitely finished ere He left it (Jn 17:4 **I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**). But it becomes us to learn the conditions under which they were wrought, that we may be able to do those greater works of which He spoke. The works of God; (F. B. Meyer, B. A.) (from The Biblical Illustrator Copyright © 2002, 2003, 2006 Ages Software, Inc. and Biblesoft, Inc.)

So let us look at this passage this morning and see what Jesus has to say to us.

I. I must work

A. Some translations use we instead of I, based on variations in the Greek text.

1. I prefer the I.
2. Jesus was heard talking about Himself.
3. In other places He would talk about the responsibilities of the disciples.

B. We notice that Jesus says I must work.

1. There are several reasons why Jesus must work.
 - a. He must work because that is what he has been called to do.
 - b. He must work because no one else can do the work he has been called to do.
 - c. He must work because the work needs to be done.

C. If Jesus must work, are we excused.

1. I do not think so, for if the son of God came to this earth to work and finish the course which God had given him isn't it silly to think that we are excused.
2. Many people cannot find any work to do.
3. Some people find work but do not like it, they desire an easier course.
4. Some people begin the work and they get sidetracked with the cares of this life.
5. Other people do not see a responsibility to God in their lives.
6. Responsibility to God: -- Daniel Webster was present one day at a dinner party given at Astor House by some New York friends, and, in order to draw him out, one of the company put to him the following question: "Would you please tell us, Mr. Webster, what was the most important thought that ever occupied your mind?" Mr. Webster merely raised his head, and passing his hand slowly over his forehead, said, "Is there anyone here who doesn't know me?" "No, sir," was the reply; "we all know you, and are your friends." "Then," said he, looking over the table, "the most

important thought that ever occupied my mind was that of my individual responsibility to God." Upon which subject he then spoke for twenty minutes. (H. O. Mackey.)

II. The works of Him who sent Me

- A. Jesus is not doing his own works.
 - 1. He has come to do the works of God.
 - 2. That is the reason why he has been sent into the world.
- B. Every child of God has a work to do.
 - 1. Does that seem extreme?
 - 2. But some will say, "but I have my own life to live."
 - 3. Like the unprofitable steward who buried his talent in the ground.
 - 4. But many church members are like the four church members I once heard about.
 - a. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.
 - b. Now I don't know if that was a Baptist Church, but it might have been.
 - c. Eccl 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. NKJV
 - d. Col 3:23-24 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. NKJV

III. While it is day;

- A. He must work at the appointed time.
 - 1. Jesus knows that his days are short.
 - 2. He knows that Satan will soon be given his way to deliver Jesus to the cross.
 - 3. In the land of Palestine at this time work had to be done in the daytime.

4. In most occupations they utilized about 12 hours a day of work.
5. The disciples understood the concept but no doubt did not understand its application to Jesus.

IV. The night is coming when no one can work.

A. The coming night meant the work would be complete whether it was finished or not.

1. It Jesus could not lengthened his time and put off the coming night than neither show we.

B. So we have our appointed night.

1. Time cannot be lengthened out by man: -- As the light was fading away on the evening before the battle of Waterloo, Napoleon, pointing towards the setting sun, said, "What would I not give to be this day possessed of the power of Joshua -- enabled to retard thy march for two hours!" (J. Abbott.)
2. How many times farmers would you lengthen the day if you could but you cannot.
3. The principle is undeniable.
4. Spurgeon gives this illustration: "Ah! Mr. Hervey," said a dying man, "the day in which I ought to have worked is over, and I now see a horrible night approaching, bringing with it the blackness of darkness forever. Woe is me! When God called, I refused. Now I am in sore anguish; and yet this is but the beginning of sorrows. I shall be destroyed with an everlasting destruction."
5. How different is the testimony of the apostle Paul: 2 Tim 4:6-8 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. NKJV
6. For each of us the night will come when no man can work.
7. There is an old story of a prisoner in a cell with contractile walls. Day by day his space lessens. He saw the whole of that window yesterday; he sees only half of it today. Nearer and nearer the walls are drawn together, till they meet and crush him between them. So the walls of our home, which we have made our prison, are closing in upon us.

V. But these works must not be of compulsion but from the heart.

A. We must work with our whole heart: -- It is one of the first and last qualifications

of good workman for God that he should put his heart into his work. I have heard mistresses tell servants when polishing tables that elbow-grease was a fine thing for such work; and so it is. Hard work is a splendid thing. It will make a way under a river, or through an Alp. Hard work will do almost everything; but in God's service it must not only be hard work, but hot work. The heart must be on fire. The heart must be set upon its design. See how a child cries! Though I am not fond of hearing it, yet I note that some children cry all over; when they want a thing, they cry from the tips of their toes to the last hair of their heads. That is the way to preach, and that is the way to pray, and that is the way to live: the whole man must be heartily engaged in holy work. (C. H. Spurgeon.) (from The Biblical Illustrator Copyright © 2002, 2003, 2006 Ages Software, Inc. and Biblesoft, Inc.)

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