



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



The Good Shepherd

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Bob Bradley

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd..." "I am the good shepherd..." He said here—what I read to you—that "He giveth His life for the sheep."

Jesus cares about people. Not only did He care about people when He was here, but also, He cares about people today. I am so very glad for that.

The lesson in John 10 came about because of the events that happened in John 9. If you go back and read...we know that Jesus—in John 9—He is just walking. He is passing by. The Bible says that He sees a guy here that has been born blind. He has been blind from his birth. There were a lot of blind people in the land during that time. They did not have all the medical things that we have today, and all the medicines that we have today for people that has issues and things with their eyes.

As I was reading and studying a little for this lesson tonight; I read that in America—in the United States of America—every 24 hours there is at least 20 people that go blind. Twenty people lose their sight. It was for different reasons. Some by accident, some by disease, and some by different ways, but at least 20 people, every 24 hours, lose their sight. That is a whole bunch of people. Do you know that? Do you know what? One of these days that may be us. We may fit into that category.

However, Jesus is passing by here. The Bible says He sees a guy that has been blind from his mother's womb. He is blind. He has been blind all of his life. The Bible says this. Look what happens.

We are a lot like the disciples sometimes. The disciples said, and they asked this question; "Master, who did sin? His parents, or him that he was born blind?"

Sometimes, we see people—I want you to understand something tonight—you and I do not have the ability to look at someone that is sick and say, "Hey, this is because you have sinned." We don't have that ability. We cannot do that. We may look at situations; someone has drunk all their life and they get Cirrhosis. That may have been a good chance that was because of it. Someone that has smoked all their life and they get lung cancer. Do you know what? Everybody that has Cirrhosis of the liver is not a drunk. Everybody that has lung cancer tonight; some people have never smoked a cigarette in their life. Therefore, we need to be very careful when we try to be theologians in times like that because we really don't know. We really don't have any idea.

Jesus said here, “Fellows, I am going to tell you something. Neither has this man sinned nor his parents...” He goes on and says; “but that the works of God should be made manifest in Him.” I want to say this also, as we go on here. Jesus did not create this guy. Jesus did not make him blind so that He was going to walk down the road one day and see him just so he could heal him. That does not happen that way. It did not work that way. If you think that things happen that way, then you are missing the whole point about who God really is and how great God really is.

Listen. God does a lot of great things. He does not need us. He does not need our help in deciding what He is doing and when He is going to do it. God does not need your help. God does not need my help.

However, this guy needed His help.

There was a time in my life and in your life that we were just as blind spiritually as this guy was blind spiritually. He was also blind physically, but he is also blind spiritually and we are going to see that here in a minute. I want you to put yourself in this guy’s position. I want you to be there on this day. There is a guy coming down the road. You do not know who it is. You can’t see him. You may not know anything about Him. However, here and His disciples are here; you hear people talking and you have all kinds of things going on here. Jesus said I must work the works of Him—get this—that has sent me. Keep that in mind. Okay?

“While it is day, the night is going to come when no man can work.” He says, “as long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

He gets down here and look what He does here. When He had spoken in verse 6, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the eyes of the man that was blind. Get that.

Here you are. You don’t know this guy. You don’t know who this guy is that is talking. You don’t know who His disciples are. You may not know anything about Him. Here you are blind and the first thing that this guy does to you; He spits on the ground. He takes the clay that is there and mixes it with the spittle and begins to rub it on your eyes. If that would have been me, probably I would have not like that real well.

Listen. I am going to tell you something. When Jesus did what He did, the next command that He gave was going to be very simple for this guy. He was going to be glad to do it. He has clay in his eyes.

When we get your eyes, when you get something in your eye and it gets irritated; do you know what you want to do? You want to get it out. Many times, I went over and taken a water hose and stuck it to my eye and tried to wash something out of my eye. You probably have too. When your eyes get irritated, you want to get it out.

I am going to tell you something, if had anointed your eyes, the next command would have been very easy and you would have been glad to do what he has done. Isn’t it

great when God calls and God convicts; He tells us where we need to go and what we need to do and how that we need to repent. Isn't it great that we can make a move towards Him? Do you know what? When He does that we don't wait around. When God speaks and God calls—I am going to say something here.

I have been to places before where people would give a 30-minute invitation. They would talk 5 minutes and give a 30-minute invitation.

Listen. If God is calling, I do not need to beg you to come. If God is speaking to you and you want to come and get saved; I am not going to have to beg you to come. Because if I have to beg you to get here the enemy will take you away anyway. Amen!

Listen. When God speaks, and God calls, and God stirs and God irritates you—do you know what? When He says come—do you know what you want to do? You want to come.

He said something different to this guy. He did not say come. He said “Go.” This guy has clay on his eyes, mud on his face and the next commandment Jesus said unto him...

John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

I would say this guy did not hesitate not one bit. Would you? Would you have hesitated? You would not have hesitated nor would I. I would have been glad to get the mud off of my eyes and the irritation that may have been there; I would have been glad to get rid of that. Wouldn't you?

It would have been like when we got saved. The burden and the load of sin and the guilt and the dirt that was taken off of our lives; I was glad to get rid of that. Were you? You should be. If you still have it then you need to get saved. Amen!

He said...

John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Jesus said, “I must do the works of Him that *sent* me.” Get that? Jesus said to him, you go down to the pool of Siloam, which is by interpretation—the word Siloam means sent.

The Bible says he goes his way and he washed and came seeing.

John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Jesus anoints his eyes with clay. He tells him to go to the pool and wash. This guy goes to the pool and washes. He can see now.

How would you have felt if you would have been there? How would you have felt if that was you? If you have never seen anything in your life, you have never been able to see

anything or anybody in your life. You have clay on your face. Here is a guy telling you—you are hearing His voice. You are hearing His word. Get that. There is something about that. Hearing His word. He did not see anything but he heard the words of Jesus—listen, He is God—he heard the Word of God and he obeyed it.

Listen. In my life and in your life when you and I will obey the Word of God, it is amazing what He will do in our lives. It is an amazing thing of what He will do, if we will just simply obey His word. He does not need your help figuring out, again, what you need to do.

This man here could have made all kinds of demands of Jesus. Well, I don't want to go to the pool Siloam. I don't want to go there. I have been blind all of my life. I am going to be blind. Do you know what he could have done? He could have made all kinds of things and said all kinds of things, and he could have given Jesus all kinds of help. However, do you know what Jesus did not do? He did not need his help.

What He needs from me and you is for us to be obedient to His Word. That is what He needs from me and you.

The Bible says...he goes. He washes and he came seeing.

John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

That is a great miracle. Don't you think? That is an absolute, awesome, miracle.

Here is what happens. The Bible says here...

John 9:8 The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

So, here is this guy. We know that he begged. We know that he is blind. We know that is all that he can do. Look at what it says.

John 9:9 Some said, This is he: others *said*, He is like him: *but* he said, I am *he*.

Do you know what? People will say all kinds of things. Won't they? People will say all kinds of things when somebody gets saved. They won't make it a week. They won't last a month. They will be back out in the world. They will be doing the same thing. Do you know what? The neighbors here said, "It looks like him. Some said, No, it is not really him." Do you know what he said? He said, "I am he." I am the guy that was blind. I am the guy that could not see. I am the guy that sat by the wayside begging. I am him. Do you know why? He was blind but now he could see.

If you have ever been born again friend, you know you have been born again. Do you know why? Because you were blind spiritually and now you can see. If you don't know that then you are not saved.

In the generation in the world, that we live in today; it is a big issue. It is a problem.

I thought today one of the greatest surprises is going to take place—that has ever taken place in the world—is going to take place when Jesus comes in the clouds. Do you know why? There is going to be a lot of people who are going to be surprised that they did not go. Amen! There is going to be a lot of them. There is going to be a lot of pastors, preachers, church leaders, singers, doctors, lawyers, and Presidents. There is going to be a lot of people that are going to be surprised that they are not going to be in heaven. Amen!

Do you know who is going? It does not have anything to do with religion. It does not have anything to do with how much you know. It does not have anything to do with how much you gave. Those that are going to heaven are those that are saved. That is all. If you have been washed by the blood, then you are going.

This guy here—listen—he got his eye sight. He still yet was not saved. He could see. The Lord performed a miracle on him but he still yet does not know who Jesus is. We are going to be introduced again to the Pharisees. The Pharisees were the religious crowd. They were the people that thought if God was going to do anything that God would do something through them. If God was going to do anything on planet earth, the Pharisees, the scribes, the lawyers, and the doctors—they thought God would have to do it through them.

Do you know what the Bible says here?

John 9:10 Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

The question was from some of the people around him; how did you get your eyes opened? The Bible in verse 11...

John 9:11 He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.

That is all he knew. That is all this guy knew. He was simply obedient to what God has said, what Jesus had said here; he goes and he is healed. He can see.

John 9:12 Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

He said, I don't know where He is at. That is in verse 12. In verse 13 we have the Pharisees.

John 9:13 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

John 9:14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

In other words, they get him together and now they are going to bring him over to the religious crowd and they are going to interrogate him. They are going to interrogate him.

John 9:14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

John 9:15 Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

I would say somewhere in this conversation that this guy is going to get tired of telling this religious crowd how he receives his sight. I would say he is going to real tired of that because they continued to ask. Telling them one time was not good enough but they continued to ask.

John 9:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

Could you imagine the religious crowd looking at Jesus and saying, "This guy isn't God." He was God. Wasn't He?

John 9:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

There was an issue. Do you know what these guys should have been doing? They should not have been asking how he got his opened. Do you know what the question was that they should have been asking? They should have been asking, "Who opened his eyes?" That is the question that should have been asked.

I have thought about this today. All you have to do is rearrange the letters in how and who. You can take those same letters and make the word out of them. Do you know what we need to be asking? "Who?" "Who did the miracle?" Not how He did it. It is not our business how He did it. The thing is who did it.

John 9:17 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

John 9:18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

Now they are saying, this guy was not really blind. He wasn't really blind. He did not really get his eyes opened. So, they go and call the guy's parents. They are going to talk to them now.

John 9:19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

John 9:20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

John 9:21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

Do you know what they did not want to do? They did not want to get in trouble. Their son had been blind all of his life. They were so scared of some religious crowd that they would not even recognize and testify that Jesus Christ had healed their son. Isn't that sad. They were so afraid of religion, so afraid of religious people, so afraid...do you know what they were afraid of? They were afraid of getting thrown out. They were afraid of getting thrown out of the synagogue. ...if you disagreed with the Pharisees and scribes they would throw you out. If you took a stand against their tradition, not necessarily the Bible, but just their tradition. Their tradition is what they held onto. They did not hold onto the Word of God. They held onto their tradition. Their tradition meant more to them than the Word of God did.

John 9:22 These *words* spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

John 9:23 Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

Do you know what that is called? "Passing the buck." Don't ask me. Ask him. You know. I don't want to get involved. I did not see it so I don't know what happened.

The Bible says in verse 24...

John 9:24 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

Did you get that? The religious crowd that is suppose to know so much that he is looking at a guy that had been born blind. His parents have testified that he was born blind. The neighbors that knew him and said that this is him. We know that he was born blind. The guy says, "Hey a guy called Jesus, anointed my eyes with clay and told me to go wash. I went and washed and now I can see." Now the people, the religious crowd looks at this guy that has been healed and says, "Hey, give God the praise because we know this guy called Jesus; we know that he is a sinner." Isn't that sad? That is blasphemy at the highest level.

You can blasphemy two different ways or maybe more than that. You can blasphemy and you can become someone that blasphemes by saying something that God is doing and God is not doing. I have heard people say it many times. God led me. God did this. God spoke. However, God wasn't in it. Or we can do it the other way and we can say God is not doing something when actually God is doing something. Do you know what that all means? You had better make sure what you are listening to. You had better make sure whose hat and what ring you throw your hat because it is a serious thing sometimes.

John 9:26 Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

John 9:27 He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear *it* again? will ye also be his disciples?

I bet their blood pressure rose 900 points when he said that. I would say that they got all red faced when he said, do you guys want to be His disciples too?

John 9:28 Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

John 9:29 We know that God spake unto Moses: *as for this fellow*, we know not from whence he is.

John 9:30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and *yet* he hath opened mine eyes.

Do you get that? Here is the marvelous thing. You guys talking about God speaking to Moses and God doing all this stuff; here is the marvelous thing. You guys don't know anything about Him. You guys are the religious crowd, but this guy opened my eyes. You guys say, you know God. You guys say all of that but you don't know this fellow who has just spoke and opened mine eyes. Do you see what that is? That is a slap in the face. You guys say you know God, but you really don't know God. Had you known God, you would know who this guy is that just opened my eyes. Amen!

John 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

John 9:32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

John 9:33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

If you read on down through here something is going to happen. We know in the next verse they do this.

John 9:34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

Amen! Do you know what that means? You are not coming in here anymore. Nope. You are not coming in here anymore. You don't tell us that we don't know—don't tell us that we don't hear from God. If God is going to do anything, He is going to do it through us. You are not welcome here anymore.

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

John 9:36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

John 9:37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

John 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

Isn't that an awesome story? If we had a little longer, you could talk about that story for hours. In all the aspects of the story. Here is the thing I want you to get. Here is the thing that I want you to remember. God cares about people. God cared about people when Jesus was here. God has always cared about people, and God cares about people today.

During this time, nobody liked the blind people. They were just—everybody thought they were just a menace to society. They could not work. They begged. They thought they were always in the way. Nobody cared anything about them. Do you know what? Listen. Jesus Christ cares about them. Jesus Christ loved the publicans and sinners. Amen! He called them. He saved them. Do you know what? This blind guy that had been born blind, even though they threw him out of the synagogue, do you know what he still yet did? I believe and I am going to worship You (Jesus). I know you changed my life. I know you gave me sight. I know that religion could not do that.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." Do you know why He is the good shepherd? Because the good shepherd cares for sheep. Amen! The scribes and the Pharisees cared nothing about people. If you couldn't further them in their political arena then you meant nothing to them. However, Jesus Christ is the good shepherd. The good shepherd will lay down his life for you and for me. He did that. Didn't he.

Come and pray—