



THE PAIN OF BLAME

Releasing the Past So God Can Manifest His Work in You

Tampa Life Church · Bible Study Series
Based on John 9

1

THE CONVERSATION BEFORE THE MIRACLE

One of the most overlooked details in John 9 is that before the miracle ever happened, a conversation took place. Before the blind man received his sight, a theological debate was occurring, and Jesus used it as a teaching moment.

John 9:2 (KJV)

"And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?"

The disciples' question reveals a tendency that still exists today. Human beings often feel uncomfortable with unexplained suffering. When pain has no clear cause, the mind searches for a reason, and blame often becomes the default answer.

While the disciples were looking for someone to blame, Jesus was looking for someone to heal.

Many believers spend years doing what the disciples did that day. They become experts on what happened to them. They can describe the wound in detail but have never moved toward healing. The danger is that we can become so consumed with explaining our suffering that we miss what God wants to accomplish through it.

❖ ***What area of your life have you been 'explaining' rather than surrendering to God for healing?***

2

THE ILLUSION OF CONTROL

Blame feels powerful because it gives the appearance of control. When something painful happens, blame convinces us that if we can just identify who is at fault, we can protect ourselves from future pain. This

reasoning is understandable but ultimately flawed.

The problem is that blame rarely heals wounds. Instead, it creates fixation. The mind begins replaying old conversations, rehearsing old offenses, and returning again and again to what was done wrong. This is exactly why Jesus refused to entertain the disciples' question.

Many people today are exhausted because they have been carrying the burden of blame for years. They have become prisoners of a moment that has already passed. The kingdom of God operates differently. Jesus is not primarily concerned with identifying villains. He is concerned with manifesting glory.

♦ *Is there someone or something you have been blaming that is keeping you from moving forward? Write honestly.*

3

JESUS REJECTS THE THEOLOGY OF SHAME

The disciples' question was rooted in a common belief of their day: that suffering must be connected to personal sin. They assumed the blind man's condition was evidence of someone's failure. Jesus immediately challenged that assumption.

John 9:3 (KJV)

"Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

Jesus refuses to allow blame to become the lens through which this man is understood. He separates the condition from the identity. This is an important lesson because shame always tries to merge our struggles with our identity. Shame says, "You are your wound." Jesus says, "Your wound is a stage for My glory."

Jesus saw potential where others saw problems. He saw purpose where others saw punishment. He saw a platform where others saw a prison.

◆ *How has shame shaped the way you see yourself? What does Jesus say about you instead?*

4

BLAME BECOMES A SECOND INJURY

One of the most powerful truths found in this message is that blame often becomes a second injury. The original wound hurt. What becomes dangerous is when the wound continues living long after the event itself has passed.

Every time the injury is replayed, the emotions return. Every time the offense is rehearsed, the pain is reactivated. Every time the blame is assigned, the healing is delayed. This is why unresolved offense can become spiritually destructive. The event may be over, but the damage continues.

The enemy understands this principle well. He cannot always control what happens to us, but he often attempts to control our response to what happens. Jesus offers a different path: acknowledge the pain without allowing the pain to become your permanent residence.

◆ *Have you experienced a 'second injury' from replaying a past wound? What would it look like to stop rehearsing it?*

5

THE COURTROOM OF THE MIND

One of the most vivid illustrations from this message is the image of a courtroom. Many people are physically free but mentally imprisoned, holding court in their own minds, playing every role: the wounded plaintiff, the angry prosecutor, and the judge. The problem with living in this courtroom is that it drains the very resources needed for healing.

Romans 12:2 (KJV)

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

God understands that healing is not only a matter of circumstance, but a matter of mindset. True transformation begins when we stop feeding the courtroom and start feeding our faith.

✦ *What 'courtroom' case are you still replaying in your mind? What would it mean to close that case today?*

6

THE STRENGTH OF FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is often misunderstood as weakness. Many people view it as excusing the behavior or releasing the offender from accountability. But biblical forgiveness is one of the most powerful acts a human being can perform.

Luke 23:34 (KJV)

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Notice that forgiveness was offered before repentance was expressed. No apology had been given. No confession had been made. Jesus did not wait for the offender's change of heart. This reveals an important truth: forgiveness is not dependent upon another person's response.

Acts 7:60 (KJV)

"And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

As stones were falling upon him, Stephen chose forgiveness. Forgiveness is powerful because it breaks the cycle. It interrupts the pattern. It prevents the wound from continuing to produce damage.

Blame keeps the injury alive. Forgiveness begins the healing process.

♦ *Is there someone you need to forgive, not for their sake, but for your own freedom? What is holding you back?*

7

THE WORK OF GOD MUST BE MANIFESTED IN YOU

The heart of Jesus' answer is found in a phrase that can easily be overlooked.

John 9:3 (KJV)

"...but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

Those final two words are critical: in him. Jesus did not say God's work would simply happen around the man. He did not say God's glory would merely be displayed nearby. He said the work would be manifested in him. The disciples were focused on external causes. Jesus focused on internal transformation.

The crowd saw blindness. Jesus saw a vessel for divine glory. The crowd saw a problem that needed explaining. Jesus saw a life that needed transforming.

Many people pray for God to change their circumstances while God is working to change them. The blind man received more than sight that day. He became a living testimony. His condition became the stage for God's glory. The same God who worked in him is still working today.

✦ *What painful experience in your life might God want to use as a platform for His glory? How can you cooperate with His work in you?*

8

SOME THINGS MUST BE WASHED

After the conversation ended, Jesus did something unusual. He spat on the ground, made clay from the dust, placed it upon the blind man's eyes, and gave him an instruction.

John 9:7 (KJV)

"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."

The miracle was not completed during the discussion. It was completed through obedience. The blind man had to get up. He had to move. He had to obey. He had to leave the place of conversation and travel to the place of healing.

There are wounds that cannot be argued away. There are injuries that cannot be biblically debated into healing. Some things must be washed: through prayer, through counseling, through community, through obedience to God's specific instruction in your situation. The miracle was waiting at the pool. The healing was waiting in obedience.

✦ *What step of obedience has God been asking you to take toward your healing that you have been avoiding?*

The closing challenge of this message may be its most practical application: do not let blame injure you twice.

The first injury may not have been your choice. Someone may have betrayed you. Someone may have abandoned you. Someone may have abused the trust you placed in them. Those events were real. Those wounds mattered. Those experiences left scars. But the second injury occurs when we allow those moments to continue controlling our lives indefinitely.

The first injury happened to us. The second injury happens within us. The first wound may have been unavoidable. The second wound is often sustained through continual rehearsal.

Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV)

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul was not advocating spiritual amnesia. He remembered his past. But he refused to allow his past to determine his future. There comes a moment when every believer must decide whether they will continue carrying the gavel of blame or place it in the hands of God.

The blind man's story did not end with blindness. Your story does not end with your wound. The final word belongs to God, and when God speaks, His purpose is always greater than your pain.

✦ *Write a prayer releasing a specific wound, offense, or area of blame to God. Be as specific as you feel led to be.*
