

From Seeing to Serving:

Imitating Jesus' Care for Hurting People

Take your Bibles and turn with me to John chapter nine. This morning, I felt led to start a series on the compassion of Christ. It's a key theme in His ministry, and it's something we need to focus on.

Now as Jesus passed by, he saw a man who was blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had said these things, he spit on the ground and made clay with his saliva. He anointed the man's eyes with the clay and said, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

You may be seated.

Jesus healed this man, but let's take a closer look at the people in this story. Yes, the man was physically blind, but if you really examine the passage, you'll realize that everyone—except Jesus—was blind in some way.

The disciples, for example, saw the man as a theological discussion rather than someone in need. "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" they asked, as if suffering always comes from wrongdoing. Jesus corrected them: *This isn't about sin but about revealing God's power.*

Have you ever wrestled with the fact that bad things happen to good people? It's easy to understand when someone's choices lead to consequences. But when tragedy strikes the innocent, it leaves us questioning. The disciples didn't understand this.

This miracle demonstrates that Jesus is the Master of misfortune. Miracles are those moments when God steps in to show His love and power—to remind us that He is in control. I once heard an evangelist say, "God can unscramble your

eggs," and I love that. No matter how broken things seem, God can restore them.

Seeing the Man

The blind man had never seen a sunrise. He had never looked into the eyes of his mother or father. His entire world was darkness. But the moment Jesus stepped into his life, everything changed—not just his eyesight, but his heart.

Yet, notice how the disciples missed the opportunity for compassion. They saw him as a topic of discussion rather than someone to be helped. Isn't it easier to debate sin and suffering than to actually meet someone's needs? They analyzed the situation and jumped to conclusions. "It must be sin," they thought. But Jesus disagreed.

Imagine how the blind man must have felt, listening to them talk about him like that. He may not have been able to see, but his hearing was likely sharp. As they walked by, discussing whether his condition was his fault or his parents', he was right there, listening.

I wonder—if the world could overhear our conversations about the brokenness around us, would they hear compassion or judgment?

How Do You See the Less Fortunate?

This passage challenges us to consider how we view those in need. When you see someone standing on a street corner holding a sign, what goes through your mind? Do you look away? Do you assume the worst?

I'll be honest—I've had moments like that. I was sitting at a red light once, and a man was standing outside my car with a sign. I avoided eye contact. Maybe if I fiddled with the radio or looked busy, he'd think I hadn't noticed him. But then I felt the Holy Spirit nudge me: *Look at him.*

And when I did, I saw a person—not a statistic, scam artist, or inconvenience—but a man, cold and struggling.

What did Jesus do when He saw the blind man? *He saw him.* He didn't turn away. And until we truly see the hurting around us, they'll remain just topics for discussion rather than people to love.

Responding Like Jesus

The disciples saw a topic. The neighbors saw a beggar. The Pharisees saw an opportunity to accuse Jesus. But Jesus saw a person in need of healing.

We get so caught up in whether people "deserve" help. But mercy doesn't require an application form. Mercy simply acts. The Bible says, *As Jesus passed by, He saw a man.* That's the heart of God.

If we started seeing people the way Jesus does, our churches would never have empty seats. God's mercy would compel us to reach out.

So, let's ask ourselves: Are we making eye contact with the world around us, or are we rolling up our windows and looking the other way?

Father, open our eyes. Give us a heart like Yours. May we not just pass by—may we truly see and act. Amen.