



Miracles: Washing with Water

2 Kings 5:1-14 John 9:1-38

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The **Miracles of Jesus** are “signs” that teach us that He is **sent from God**, “signs” that His **Word and promises** are true, “signs” that He has the **power and authority** to do what He says. *The miracles of Jesus are “signs” that validate His teaching as the Son of God and Savior of the world!*

TODAY WE HEARD the story of the man born blind, and how Jesus healed him. Jesus is seen as a great prophet because of this miracle, like Elisha healing Naaman of his leprosy in the Old Testament times.

The disciples thought this man or his parents had sinned, and that is why He was blind. But Jesus told them that it doesn’t work like that --- **there is NO one-to-one correlation**. We live in a broken, sinful world, and blindness is just one terrible way that the curse of original sin shows itself in our sinful world.

You may not be *physically* blind, but we all are *spiritually* blind at birth.

This “spiritual blindness” is usually called original sin. Original sin is the guilt and corruption that we inherit from Adam, it is passed on to us at conception, and it leaves us “**spiritually blind**”. Being “*spiritually blind*” means that you “*cannot see that God exists*”; you do not know God, love Him, nor trust in Him. **Spiritual blindness** leads to all sorts of sin and depravity in your life. And then after it has destroyed your life, it leads you right into death and eternal separation from God. At one time, we all were like this blind man in the story; we could not “*see Jesus*” nor believe that God exists. ***If you do not believe in Jesus today, you are still spiritually blind.***

But Jesus comes to this man and intervenes in His life!!

**Jesus, the Teacher and the Prophet, the Son of God Himself
works a miracle with water to open the man’s eyes!**

The Light of the world spoke His powerful Word to the man who lived in darkness, and He was healed. He was set free from the darkness of sin. The Light shined into his heart and opened his eyes. This man “saw” Jesus, and trusted His Word.

In this miracle, the Lord Jesus used **mud and water** to work the miracle. Jesus put **mud** on the man’s eyes and told him to go and **wash it off** in the pool of Siloam; and when he did, he could see! Jesus opened this man’s eyes -- both physically and spiritually! He could see – both the world around him, and more importantly, the Savior of the world!

ONLY THE LORD JESUS CAN OPEN EYES THAT ARE BLIND.

Jesus is the Savior God sent for you; He is the “Light of the World” Who took upon Himself all the darkness of your sin and guilt. He even took your Original sin and its guilt and its punishment upon Himself. Jesus carried it all to Jerusalem, where He was put to death; *even death on a terrible cross*. Jesus died in the darkness of Good Friday so that you will have the Light of Life. His death, burial and resurrection pays for your sins and reconciles you to God the Father.

Now, during your lifetime, the Lord Jesus has intervened in your life to bring you this Good News. He found you – and just like that man in the Gospel lesson for today, He spoke His powerful word to you. Instead of using water and mud and telling you to go wash in the pool of Siloam, Jesus has told you to go and wash in the “**POOL OF HOLY BAPTISM**”. Jesus worked a ***miracle with water in Holy Baptism*** that opened your eyes and gave you spiritual sight! Faith was created within you. You now “see Jesus” and know that He is your Savior who forgives all your sins!

That is why Baptism is so important. *Of all the things in the world*, God chose **the water of Holy Baptism** to use to save you, just like He chose **mud and water** to save the man in the Gospel lesson.

If you or your children have not been baptized, then get a hold of me and let’s make it happen.

Baptism is how God works to wash our sins away. In Holy Baptism, the Light of the world shines into your heart, and opens your eyes, and rescues you from the darkness of death.

For most of us, Holy Baptism was a long time ago, and probably when you were an infant, and you don't remember it.

**Just because you can't remember it
doesn't mean it wasn't important.**

For instance, I don't remember eating ANY FOOD in 1973, but I know I did, and I probably ate 3 meals a day plus snacks! That food was real, and it kept me alive that year, *even if I don't remember any of it.*

You might not remember your Baptism, but it is still real, and it is how God gave you eternal life and forgave your sins for the first time.

Holy Baptism was a turning point in your life; it was the start of your Christian faith and life; it was your first contact with the Light of the World. It is imperative that you understand what happened to you in Baptism, because it impacts every day you live.

Baptism gives you your identity in Christ; you belong to God and live in His Kingdom as a forgiven sinner whose sins have been washed away. You were baptized in “*the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*” It's like God writes His Name on you and you are now part of His family.

**Holy Baptism gives you your identity:
you are a baptized child of God!**

Holy Baptism is the miracle with water that God worked in your life.

Let me wrap up today with two points about this man whom Jesus healed.

1. As a baptized child of God, you can **expect persecution because of Jesus.** This miracle of healing the man born blind caused quite a stir. The story is told over **41 verses!** *That's a lot of space in Holy Scripture!* The neighbors, Pharisees, and Jews all could not understand what happened. No one believed that Jesus healed the man, even though the man was standing right before them.

You can expect persecution because of Christ also. **It will come in the form of ridicule, insults, false accusations, and exclusion.** The world hates Christ, ignores His Word, and denies His Kingdom. The Bible is clear, because the world hates Christ, it will hate you also. Like the man whom Jesus healed, you too can expect persecution.

2. As a baptized child of God, **Jesus speaks to you through His Word: comforting, strengthening, encouraging you.**

At the end of the story, Jesus finds the man again talks with Him. Jesus' powerful Word continues to work in the man's life, creating and strengthen his faith.

The Lord does the same thing for you. **The miracle with water is not your only contact with Christ.** He comes alongside you and talks with you through His Word. He teaches you, comforts you, strengthens you. The Lord works through His powerful Word to assure you of His love and forgiveness. He guides and leads you through His Word. Holy Scripture is the Lord Jesus speaking personally with you. That is why we hear it, learn it, study it, and memorize it. That is why we send our children to Sunday School, Oasis, youth groups, and Trinity Lutheran School. The Bible is the voice of Jesus in your life. Through the Word of God, the Lord Himself comes alongside of you just like He came alongside the man He healed in the Gospel lesson for today. **Don't neglect the Word of Jesus in your life.**

Jesus' miracles prove that His Word is true.

He healed a man born physically blind in John 9.

He healed you who were born spiritual blind in Holy Baptism.

You can trust His Word, so hear it, learn it and obey it!

AMEN!