

Grace Notes

Ask the Blind Man, He Saw It All

1.4.12

**“....One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”
(John 9:25)**



Go with me back in time to early 1st century Jerusalem. We're about to watch a miracle take place.

Jesus is passing by a man "*blind from birth.*" (9:1) What happens next appears nuts. John records that Jesus "*spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.' So he went and washed and came back seeing.*" (John 9:6-7) John MacArthur comments on this passage: "*As he had done when he originally made human beings out of the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7), Jesus may have used the clay to fashion a new pair of eyes.*" (Holy cow! I'd never even thought of that!)

When we, as believers, talk of believing in miracles we have no problem with the miracles of Bible times. But what about today? Does God still work miracles? What's preventing God from working a miracle in the lives of believers this new year? Matthew gives us a clue. "*And [Jesus] did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*" (Matt. 13:58) C.S. Lewis put it this way: "*Miracles tend to [gather around] areas we have naturally no [desire] to frequent.*" Translation: the "fertile soil" for the miraculous is our faith in Christ.

Miracles don't necessarily have to be "restored limbs," "resurrections", or "exorcisms." A miracle can be: a friend or loved one finally coming to faith in Christ; a restored marriage; an estranged relationship now reconciled; or, being delivered from what was once a deeply rooted, ingrained habit of sin. Do miracles "of biblical proportions" still happen today. You bet they do.

On a shelf in my office sits a picture of a modern-day miracle. In the picture is my dad, me & my three young children. It was November, 1999. Only moments before the picture was taken I'd told my dad about something that had literally changed my life - I told him I'd forgiven him. Sober, my dad was wonderful when I was kid. Drunk, he became a monster. And he was drunk far more than he was sober. After my mom, I was next in line to receive his rage. Miraculously, those nightmarish memories began to fade as I shared with him how much I loved him and had forgiven him. What I never could've done on my own, Christ did for me. It was a *miracle*. I cannot overstate how much Christ changed my life as a result of that decision (just ask Michelle).

The *Booth Brothers* have a song entitled, "*He Saw It All*", about a passerby walking up on a crowd of people who've, only moments earlier, witnessed one of Jesus' healings. The passerby sees a man running his way, stops him, and asks why he's running and what all the commotion was about. The man, out of breath, replies: *I was trying to catch the crippled man - did he run past this way? He was rushing home to tell everyone what Jesus did today. And the mute man was telling myself and the deaf girl he's leaving to answer God's call. It's hard to believe but if you don't trust me ask the blind man, he saw it all.*



Soli Deo Gloria, Nick