

# Guidance Faith and Work

*Human Relationship with God Regarding Work*

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# What We Will Learn

- Christ teaches work through healing
- Illustrates human relationship with God regarding work
- Working with God in increments
  - Receive God's guidance
  - Work with faith according to guidance
  - Receive miracle
  - Receive guidance for next increment
- John 9:1–39

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# Message of Work

- Explains man born blind for a purpose
- To channel God's message of work
- God defines work tasks for every person
- Allots a person time for each task
- Expects person to complete task on time
- Will deploy blind man to illustrate human relationship with God regarding work
- John 9:1–5

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## **John 9 (NKJV)**

1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

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## John 9 (NKJV)

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

- Multiple work tasks for each person
- Time for each task
- Expects each to complete task on time

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# Work Command (Guidance)

- God initiates work on a task for a person
- Commands (provides guidance) to the person to complete the task
- Christ illustrates relationship
- Through interaction with blind man
- John 9:6–7

## John 9 (NKJV)

6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

7 And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent).

... *[to be continued]*

# Receiving God's Guidance

- Christ spoke to blind man physically
- Chooses how to communicate effectively with every person
  - Vivid spiritual communication
  - Non-vivid spiritual communication
  - Message through others
  - [Recall Peter and Cornelius examples]

# Receiving Guidance cont'd

- Stay connected to God to receive his guidance
- Pray continually
- Fellowship with believers
- Living in the image of God
- For husband and wife: working together as one before God

# Faith Work and Miracle

- Work diligently according to guidance
- By faith of God
- An outcome at completion of each task
- Miracle through work
- Each task and outcome open opportunity for next task and outcome
- John 9:7

## John 9 (NKJV)

7 And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

- Blind man followed God’s guidance
- Went to pool and washed
- Gained sight
- Miracle through faith and work
- Opened opportunity for next task

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# Outcome Leads to Next Task

- Outcome of a task
- Opens opportunity for next task
- Completion of current task conveys God's guidance for next task
- Task 1: Man gains sight at end of Task 1
- Task 2: Neighbors challenge man to explain how he gained sight
- John 9:8–12

## John 9 (NIV)

8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

9 Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

## **John 9 (NIV)**

10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

11 He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

12 “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

# Outcome and Miracle of Task 2

- Man explained his sight to neighbors
- His boldness grew regarding his experience
  - Better understanding
  - Greater capability to explain
  - Less fearful of other people's misunderstanding
- Encounter with neighbors prepared him for subsequent and more challenging encounters

## Task 2 Leads to Task 3

- His correct explanation of his sight
- Did not satisfy his neighbors
- They took him to Jewish authorities
- Interacted boldly with Pharisees
- They did not accept his explanation
- They expelled him from synagogue
- More detail ...

# Task 3: Interaction with Pharisees

- Pharisees' Problem
  - Did not believe Jesus was the Messiah
  - Will punish any believer
  - Will protect their status as teachers of the law
  - Will enforce rule of law, e.g., Sabbath law
- Man's 3<sup>rd</sup> task
  - Engage the Pharisees and confront them with evidence that Jesus is the Messiah

# Interaction Regarding Sabbath Rule

- Pharisees' Dilemma
  - They could call Jesus a sinner because he worked on the Sabbath
  - But a sinner could not have the power of God, such as by giving sight to a person born blind
- The man offers them a resolution:  
Declared Jesus is a prophet
- John 9:13–17

## **John 9 (NKJV)**

13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

## **John 9 (NKJV)**

16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.

17 They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

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# Completing Task 3

- Confronted Pharisees with evidence that Jesus is the Messiah
- Parents testified he was born blind
- Pharisees admonished him to deny Jesus
- Stood his ground against Pharisees
- Presented strong message of the gospel
- John 9:18–33 [28–33 read in session]

## **John 9 (NKJV)**

28 Then they reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples.

29 We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.”

30 The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!

## **John 9 (NKJV)**

31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

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# End of Task 3 Begins New Task

- Man was expelled from synagogue
- But his confrontation with Jewish authorities was witnessed by many
- His expulsion was reported to Jesus
- Jesus looked for and found him
- Declared his belief and worshiped him
- Thus began his next task [unspecified]
- John 9:35–39

## **John 9 (NKJV)**

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

36 He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

37 And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.”

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## **John 9 (NKJV)**

38 Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.”

# What We Learned

- God designs work for every person
- Guides a person through incrementally
- An increment defines a work task
- Outcome of a task leads to a new task
- There is a miracle in every task  
[the hand of God in every task]
- Stay connected to receive God's guidance
- Work with faith and diligence

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