

## A MESSY MIRACLE

God is perfectly capable of working a miracle in your life, despite your present circumstances.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Many of us have a natural curiosity trait that makes us want to know the 'back story' to the things happening around us. The same was true of the disciples in John 9:1-8 who, upon seeing a blind man and finding out he had been blind from birth, quickly concluded that his situation was based on one of two things: either sins he had committed, or sins his parents had committed.
- ❖ Jesus had to quickly correct their assumptions by telling them the true background to this man's situation: that He had been born blind for no other purpose than to eventually become the recipient of Jesus' miracle working power! His whole life had been a setup for this one defining moment.
- ❖ Just as people of this blind man's era wondered if he was just a hapless sinner paying for his own or someone else's sins, a lot of people today speak about generational curses as they try to figure out why bad things seem to consistently happen in the lives of certain people.
- ❖ It's a good time for us to pause and reflect. Let's not rush past the lifelong reality of total blindness that this man faced, because it's so easy for us to rush ahead into the miracle section of this chapter.
- ❖ Whether we speak of Joseph, or David, or Moses, or Daniel, or Job, we see people who were set up by God through tragic circumstances to have His incredible power revealed in them. Those are some of the big-name folks everyone knows about and celebrates.
- ❖ But there is also a host of folks whose names we don't know and have never heard (e.g., the man at the pool of Bethesda in John 5; the leper in Luke 5; the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5, etc.). They, like many of us today, went through situations of pain, sickness, grief, and loss, and it all seemed totally pointless.
- ❖ This is not to say that each and every life of pain and sickness is a setup for a miracle, but we don't want to discount the possibility that God may be ready to perform a miracle in your life that will shock everyone around you! But before the miracle, there's the mess.
- ❖ Note that the blind man didn't call out to Jesus like Bartimaeus did in Mark 10. And others weren't rushing to Jesus to intercede on his behalf. It was just another regular day of the sad routine he went through.
- ❖ But Jesus happened to pass by at that particular time and, clearly, He had a purpose.
- ❖ Have you every thought that maybe, just maybe, your seemingly pointless, trouble-filled life could possibly be a miracle-in-the-making somewhere down the road?
- ❖ But whether we receive a miraculous intervention or not, we need to maintain the right heart and the right attitude before God, which is the attitude of thanksgiving that tracks through the book of Psalms over and over again:

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

John 9:1-8; Psalm 100:4-5, 118:1-4, 29;  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Romans 8:28

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord!"

- ❖ Our praise and thanksgiving isn't an option based upon how well we think God has treated us thus far in our lives. It isn't conditional. It's an everyday, "nevertheless" kind of praise.
- ❖ When we look at most of the places where the instruction of "Oh, give thanks to the Lord" is given, the ending reads "For His mercy *endures* forever" (see Psalm 106:1; 107:1; 118:1-4, 29; 136:1).
- ❖ So, what is David trying to teach us? Wherever we are, whatever our situation in life, and whatever troubles we've faced, are facing, or will be facing, give thanks to the Lord.
- ❖ This concludes of the first part of our story. The second part brings to mind the saying "it's going to get worse before it gets better."
- ❖ In John 9:6, we are told that Jesus "spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay." This is what we might call "adding insult to injury."
- ❖ Have you ever felt that God was turning up the heat in your tormented life? Felt that He really doesn't love you as His word says He does, but hates you instead? It wouldn't be surprising if this blind man had such thoughts.
- ❖ Yet when Jesus instructed him on what to do next (v. 7), he obeyed and received a messy miracle!
- ❖ Believe it or not, there *is* such a thing as "bad luck" in scripture (Ecclesiastes 9:11-12), but there's also the reality that God may well have a great and eternally significant reason for the troubles you're going through. Our instruction is clear: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- ❖ Our lives are hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3) and He knows precisely what He's doing with us. We're in His hands, and we glorify Him for this reality.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. If comfortable, share with the group a difficult situation you are going through. Is there a biblical figure whose experience is similar to your own? Examine how they made it through—what can be applied to your own situation?
2. "In everything give thanks." Give God thanks.

### PRAYER TIME

Lord, whatever situation I may face in life, help me to remember that You are a miracle worker, even in the messy circumstances of life.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)    💡 (New idea)    ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this)    ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)    ↻ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What are some messes that you have had to clean up? What methods did you have to use and how long did it take to clean up the mess?