



***YOU: Connect. Grow. Serve. Go!***  
**Summer 2018 Midweek Sermon Starter**

**Unit 2:** No Doubt About It  
**Sermon Series Title:** Biblical Answers for Basic Questions  
**Sermon 5 Title:** Sharing Jesus  
**Bible Passage:** John 9:7-9,12-17,24-25

**Background/Context**

There's nothing quite like being around someone who's recently been saved. More times than not, their initial enthusiasm is electric. The shallow excuses many of us use when it comes to sharing our faith are completely lost on them. They are not worried about what others will think or whether or not they'll have all the answers. They simply desire to tell others what Jesus has done for them.

In this passage, we observe a man who had literally just been changed by Jesus. What begins with the man being given physical sight ends with him receiving spiritual sight. Jesus didn't just stop at his eyes—He healed the man all the way to the heart. In response, this simple beggar—who had no formal training, no seminary education, and no witnessing classes—gives a fantastic model of how we can share about Jesus. He simply shares what Jesus has done for him.

**A. Let People See the Difference Jesus Makes in You  
(John 9:7-9)**

The day began with a simple question, really. Jesus and the disciples passed by a simple man, a beggar really, “a man blind from birth” (v. 1). The disciples wanted to know what many of us wonder when sickness strikes—“Why did this happen?” They thought someone had sinned. Jesus quickly debunked that myth, saying that God's glory was really what was behind this devastating blindness. Little did anyone know what would happen next.

I wonder if the blind man overheard this conversation. Was he ashamed that he was the topic of discussion? But then, the tender voice of that man the others called “Rabbi” came close and He touched him. Thick mud was gently pressed on his ever-useless eyes, and then the man said “Go.... wash in the pool...” (v. 7). Did he laugh as he went? Did he wonder, “Who knows? What can it hurt?” But when the Siloam waters washed over his face, pupils and retinas awoke as if brought back from the dead. He could see!

Imagine his reaction. You can almost hear the echoes and see the mad dash back to his old begging spot by the road. The townspeople who knew him were perplexed. But one thing was for certain—something was different about this man.

Spiritually speaking, a similar change happens when we first accept Jesus. Sin is still tempting, but now it isn't nearly as enjoyable. Living God's way is suddenly exhilarating, not exhausting. And though you may not even mean to show it, others can't help but see the difference.

***Application Point:*** What difference has Jesus made in you? Do you remember when you first believed in Him? How have you seen your desire to follow Him grow over time? Are you still as excited to tell others what He's doing in you? Why or why not?

## **B. Don't Worry About What You Don't Know (John 9:12-17)**

The story must have sounded hard to believe. The man had been blind for years and all his neighbors knew it. With seemingly little pomp and circumstance, the man slipped away to the Pool of Siloam and returned able to see! Imagine the questions: What happened to you? Who did this? Where is he?

Combine the fact that the man couldn't produce the person who'd healed him and the fact that this healing took place on the Sabbath, and you can see why his neighbors decided that someone needed to investigate this further. The Sabbath was of extreme importance to the Jews of Jesus' day. What started as a command from God to have a day of rest had been manipulated by the religious leaders into a legalistic nightmare. Rule after rule was made to define what could be done on a Sabbath and it still would be considered a day of rest, to the point that tying a knot was considered too much work. Needless to say, the fact that this man had been healed on the Sabbath was no small issue.

Many find witnessing extremely intimidating, but it's unlikely any of us have faced a scenario as intimidating as this man faced. The people he faced had the power, and later used it (v. 34), to throw him out of the synagogue, essentially cutting him off from the life of the community. Yet this man simply and boldly stated what He knew to be the facts—Jesus was no mere man; He was a prophet from God.

**Application Point:** Though you and I should be good students of God's Word, we (like this man) will often have little if any time to prepare for questions others might have about Jesus. We shouldn't worry about what to say. Jesus promises to provide the words we need (Matt. 10:19).

## **C. Simply Tell What You've Experienced (John 9:24-25)**

The Pharisees were unwilling to accept this man's testimony, so they called in his parents. The Pharisees must have been intimidating because the parents were "afraid of the Jews" (v. 22) and their ability to ban them from the synagogue. When the parents' testimony proved to be of no help, the son was brought back in with the hopes that he could be coerced to speak ill of Jesus. Consider the irony—the Righteous Judge on trial, and the only person willing to testify on His behalf was a former beggar.

The man's testimony about Jesus, however, proved to be too much for the Jews. Notice that it's not because he gave some theological treatise or doctrinal definition about who Jesus was. All the man knew of Jesus was his brief, but life-changing encounter with Him. But that's all that mattered at that point. When we share with others about Jesus, they may want to argue one point or another, but the best testimony we can offer is our changed life. If we will be honest enough to explain how spiritually blind we were before encountering Jesus and how clear we see life now as we live according to Scripture, then people will have a hard time refuting the evidence. They still may not believe—be sure of that—but they will at least be forced to make a decision about Jesus concerning the evidence of Him they see in us. First, we must make sure that our lives are giving others a clear picture, so they can truly see Him.

**Application Point:** If the only evidence someone had about Jesus was the change they can see in their life; would it be enough to convince them? Is sin clouding other people's view of Jesus in your life? What do you need to do in order to clear the picture?