



ONE THING I KNOW (Sermon)

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Richard Sabuin
Sabbath School and Personal Ministry Director
Trans-European Division

Bible Text:

“He answered and said, ‘Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.’” (John 9:25)

Introduction

Many Bible students agree that John selected seven miraculous signs that Jesus performed before His death to be included in His Gospel:

- The changing of water into wine
- The healing of an official’s son
- The healing of a paralytic
- The feeding of 5,000 people
- Jesus walking on the water
- The healing of a man born blind
- The raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Jesus performed many more miraculous signs, but about the few that he has selected, John says, “These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31). There are five groups of people who believe or are expected to believe:

- a. Those who *experience* the miracles: For example, the man born blind that Jesus healed who said to Jesus, “Lord, I believe” (John 9:38).
- b. Those who *witness* the miracles: For example, the disciples of Jesus who witnessed Jesus changing water into wine – “His disciples believed in Him” (John 2:11).
- c. Those who *hear* about the miracles: For example, the nobleman who came to Jesus to ask Jesus to heal his son because he had heard about Jesus performing a miracle at a wedding in Cana – “When he heard that Jesus had come . . . he went to Him” (John 4:47).

- d. Those who *read* about the miracles: This is those who read of the Gospel of John, including us (John 20:31).
- e. Those who proclaim the miracles: For example, the man born blind who gave testimonies about what Jesus had done to him, and then when he met Jesus, he said, “Lord, I believe” (John 9:38).

Each of these miraculous signs has unique components. The healing of the man born blind is unique because it includes a series of personal testimonies given by the person who was healed.

A Sent Disciple

The healing itself is described in just two verses: “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. 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” (John 9:6, 7).

Although short, it describes what the power of Jesus can do to a person.

- *Jesus gives new life.* By spitting on the ground and anointing the eyes of the blind man with clay, Jesus reminds us of His power in creating human beings (Genesis 2:7). This man has received a new life from Jesus. Now he can see.
- *The man surrenders himself to Christ’s instruction.* Jesus instructed “Go, wash” and the man “went and washed” (John 9:7). The man followed exactly what Jesus wanted him to do to have a new beginning. Without submitting himself to the will of Jesus, he would not have experienced a new life.
- *The man returned for witnessing.* When the man came back, he did not see Jesus, only the people who were waiting to see what had happened to him. The series of testimonies began there. In explaining the meaning of Siloam, “sent,” John must have thought of emphasizing the sending of that man to become a witness for Christ after receiving a new life!

What the man experienced tells us about our responsibility after experiencing the power of God who has changed us. The man, coming out of the pool with a changed life, was sent as a witness to many people. He witnessed to his parents (v. 19-21), to his “neighbors” (v. 8, 9), to “those who previously had seen that he was blind” (v. 8, 9), and to the Pharisees and the Jews (vv. 13-15, 23-27). He gave testimonies:

- a. to his family—the closest to him
- b. to his neighbors—those who knew him day by day
- c. to people who had seen him blind—those who might not have known who he was except that he had been blind
- d. to the Pharisees and other Jews—those who have the least interest in him

The blind man's experience should also be ours. Coming out of the baptistery, from the day we are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19), each of us has been sent as a disciple of Christ to witness:

- a. to our families and relatives
- b. to our neighbors and friends
- c. to those who know us although we may not know them
- d. to those who do not know us at all

This is exactly what Jesus has instructed to His disciples: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

How long has it been since you were baptized in Christ's name, accepting Him as your personal Savior?

Yes, our baptism symbolizes our death to sin and resurrection for a new life in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5).

Yes, our baptism signifies that we have become children of God (John 1:12).

Yes, our baptism means we have joined the body of Christ and become members of His church (1Corinthians 12:13).

Yes, our baptism is a point in our lives when we begin to receive the spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

But that is not all! Our baptism also means that we have become a disciple of Christ to be sent to make all nations His disciples (Matthew 28:19). There is a missional meaning in our baptism.

Dimensions of Personal Outreach

Undeniable change of life

Many could not believe that the man who was born blind received his sight. They knew who he was: "Is not this he who sat and begged?" (John 9:8), but they just could not believe who he now was until he himself says, "I am he" (v. 9).

The change is so dramatic and obvious that it stimulates questions of curiosity:

- "Is not this he?" (v. 8)
- "How were your eyes opened?" (v. 10)
- "Where is He [Jesus]?" (v. 12)
- "The Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight" (v. 15)
- "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" (v. 16)

- “What do you say about Him?” (v. 17)
- “Is this your son . . . How then does he now see?” (v. 19)
- “What did He do to you?” (v. 26)
- “How did He open your eyes?” (v. 26)

Regardless the motives of the questions, a life changed by Jesus Christ makes others want to know about Him. All questions are asked: Who, Where, What, How? A changed life opens opportunities to give testimony about Jesus to other people. Before people listen to the message, they want to see the messenger!

Do we have a changed life? Can we distinguish our lives before and after we know Jesus Christ? Can we feel the change? Have we experienced the power of Christ that can change our lives? Have we followed His instruction about how to have a changed life? Have people ever asked us about our changed life? Who changed it and how did He change it? These are all the questions we need to ask ourselves to make sure that we are ready to be God’s messenger, a witness for Jesus Christ.

1. Clear message: One Thing I Know

The healed blind man had not known much about Jesus. But that is not an excuse for not sharing about Jesus with others. He testified about what he knew and experienced:

- He knew that the One who healed him was “a Man called Jesus” (v. 11)
- He knew what Jesus had done to him: “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see” (v. 15; cf. v. 11). This was actually his main message, which he repeated twice.
- He knew that Jesus is a prophet (v. 17). He had not yet come to the full knowledge about who Jesus is, and yet, with conviction he testified what he knew about Jesus.
- He knew the difference of his life in the past and in the present: “One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see” (v. 25)
- He knew that Jesus is not a sinner (v. 31)
- He knew that Jesus comes from God (v. 33).

Although he had just begun to know Jesus, he had known something that great rabbis of the Jews, such as Nicodemus, also knew. When Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night, he said to Him: “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him” (John 3:2). The healed blind man also said: “If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing” (John 9:33).

The healed blind man gave a clear message of testimony about Jesus. The message was not complicated. It was very simple, and yet powerful, because it is what he experienced and what he believed.

The healed blind man was also clear about what he did not know. When asked about where Jesus was, he said, “*I do not know*” (v. 12). He also said, “Whether He is a sinner or not *I do*

not know” (v. 25), although later he challenged the Pharisees that it was impossible that Jesus was a sinner (v. 31).

The healed blind man says: “One thing I know,” and he proclaimed it with confidence and conviction. Ellen G. White says: “The Lord gave the man grace and clarity so that he became a witness for Christ in words that were a cutting rebuke to his questioners.” (Humble Hero, p. 221).

What is the one thing we know about Jesus that we can share with others with confidence? Paul in Hebrews 5:12 mentions that for those who have been followers of Christ or Christians for many years, “by this time you ought to be teachers.” It means we may have knowledge much more than what the healed blind man had.

But the question is not about how much knowledge we have about Christ, but what is the “one thing I know” that we have shared with others?

Personal outreach is not necessarily about sharing deep theological studies, it is also about sharing a simple message about Christ with others.

2. *Sharing the message*

We may have a changed life and a clear message, but they are nothing if we do not share with others by using any opportunities given to us. What did the healed blind man do?

The story tells us that the parents were afraid of the Jews and disfellowship from the synagogue community (John 9:22). But the healed blind man was not afraid to share the message with the Pharisees and many others.

In the seven opportunities of witnessing, the man began by simply answering questions, as we have presented above, and the testimonies develop into appeal and further teaching about Jesus.

- *Personal testimony.* The man answered questions by telling what Jesus had done to him: “A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So, I went and washed, and I received my sight” (v. 11). He again gave the same testimony, this time to a different group of people—the Pharisees and the Jews (v. 15). Thus, one single testimony can be used to appeal to different groups of people. No one can challenge personal testimonies, especially the ones with many living witnesses.
- *Initial introduction of Jesus.* The man gave a very short introduction about the One who healed him: “A man called Jesus” (v. 11), and “He is a prophet” (v. 17). Personal testimonies are only vehicles on which we bring Jesus to others.
- *Affirmation of faith.* Before he continued to the next step of his witnessing, he made an affirmation of his faith in Jesus that distinguished him from the Pharisees. He did not want to fall into the trap of the Pharisees when they said: “WE KNOW that this

Man is a sinner.” Immediately, the man said: “Whether He is a sinner or not I DO NOT KNOW. One thing I KNOW: that though I was blind, now I see” (v. 25). He was not ashamed to be different from the Pharisees.

- *Making appeal.* When repeatedly asked the same question, the man asked his own question: “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again?” and then he continued with a very important question: “Do you also want to become His disciples” (v. 27). By using the word “also,” the man implicitly indicated that he was a disciple of Christ, and was inviting them to be His disciples, too. He is offering a must-asked question in personal outreach. Personal outreach is not complete without making an appeal to others to follow Jesus Christ.
- *Continual teaching.* His last answer to the questions of the Pharisees is the longest among the previous ones. In verses 30-33, are three reasons why they should believe in Jesus:
 - a) The miracle Jesus performed to him was marvelous.
 - b) The relationship between Jesus and God—God heard Him.
 - c) No one can perform the miracle that Jesus performed. The healed blind man had done his duty as a sent disciple of Christ!

3. *Growing continually in Christ*

The story is not emphasizing the result of the personal outreach of the healed blind man. In fact, the Pharisees cast him out. The story is highlighting the passion for witnessing that a man had after he experienced the power of God in his life. He did what a disciple of Christ is supposed to do.

People asked him questions and he answered.

He asked questions that the Pharisees answered.

Next Jesus asked him questions that he needed to answer: “Do you believe in the Son of God?” (v. 35). In his personal testimonies and witnessing, with the simple knowledge that he had about Jesus, he introduced Him as a prophet coming from God. The question asked by Jesus was to guide him to grow not only in his knowledge about Jesus but also in his faith.

The man asked Jesus: “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” (v. 36).

Jesus answered, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” (v. 37)

The man declared: “Lord, I believe!”

There was continual growth. He knew Jesus only as a prophet or a Man coming from God. Then he knew Him as the Son of God! He believed Jesus only as a prophet, a Man who restored his sight. Then he believed in Jesus as the Son of God!

Ellen White says in *The Desire of Ages*, page 474:

“For the first time the blind man looked on the face of his Restorer. Before the council he had seen his parents troubled and perplexed; he had looked on the frowning faces of the rabbis; now his eyes rested upon the loving, peaceful countenance of Jesus. Already, at great cost to himself, he had acknowledged Him as a delegate of divine power; now a higher revelation was granted him.”

The man fell on his knees and worshipped Jesus. John indicates in the book of Revelation that even an angel cannot be worshipped, only God. John shares his experience: “And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!’” (Revelation 19:10). Therefore, as the healed blind man worshipped Jesus, he acknowledged Jesus as Lord and God!

People Are in Need

It may be interesting to connect John chapter 9 with the two immediate previous chapters. While Chapter 9 highlights the witnessing done by the healed blind man, Chapters 7 and 8 describes different opinions about Jesus:

- Some people said, “He is good” (7:12)
- Some said, “No, on the contrary, He deceives the people” (7:12)
- Some were amazed by His knowledge: “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?” (7:15)
- Others were amazed by His courage and boldness: “But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?” (7:26)
- Some people believed in His power: “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?” (7:31)
- Some acknowledged: “This is the Christ” (7:41)
- Yet others said: “Will the Christ come out of Galilee?” (7:41)
- The temple officers were in awe: “No man ever spoke like this Man!” (7:46)
- The Pharisees accused Him: “You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true.” (8:13)
- Many Jews did not believe that He is God: “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” (8:57)

People are of different opinions about Jesus. Many do not fully believe that He is the **Christ**, that He is the **Son of God**, that He is the **Savior**, that He is the **Creator**. Some recognize Jesus merely as a good man, or as a prophet like other prophets, or as a teacher like other teachers.

The world is in need of Jesus. People are in need of the Savior!

Appeal

We do not know the name of the man born blind and healed by Jesus. But he is known by his statement: “One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.” He witnessed for Christ with that message. Though it seems simple, it is a powerful message because he witnessed it with the power of God that he himself experienced.

Personal outreach is not so much about how much knowledge we have to share. It is about the “one thing I know” that we can share with others with the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.

Would we be willing to dedicate ourselves to be Christ’s witnesses to this people who need Christ?

Would we be willing to give ourselves to Jesus Christ that He can renew us to prepare us as powerful witnesses for other people?