

The “work of God” was displayed:

1. In the healing of the man

It created quite a stir among his neighbours (v8-9)

2. In the man’s faith

Jesus found the man to give him spiritual understanding (v35-37)

3. In the transformation to the man’s life

The man became bold against those who opposed Jesus (v30-33)

God was at work even in the man’s persecution for his new-found faith.

Why did the man have to suffer for many years before meeting Jesus? We all long for a ‘perfect world’ – and we shall know one when Jesus comes again in glory! We have to trust God’s timings in these matters. Why did he have to suffer for obeying Jesus? Even with sight, there are mysteries that require faith. While sin abounds, sadly suffering will abound. However, grace abounds even more, through knowing Jesus.

Has Jesus opened your eyes spiritually to his saving work? Are you letting His Holy Spirit display his sanctifying work in you? Are you actively seeking to be involved in the work of service He has for you?

Benediction

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers (and sisters) Amen.” (Galatians 6.18)

NOTE:

While we hope as many as possible will meet with us from this Sunday for Worship at 11am with strict social distancing steps in place; we will continue to produce the Church at Home notes for any who feel unable to join with us at this time. We look forward to being able to join together, as we once did, soon.

Pastor Andrew

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 13th September

Share with others by reading through these notes at 11am

Hymn & Chorus (to sing or read)

There’s a work for Jesus, ready at your hand,
'Tis a task the Master just for you has planned.
Haste to do His bidding, yield Him service true;
There’s a work for Jesus none but you can do.

*Work for Jesus, day by day,
Serve Him ever, falter never; Christ obey.
Yield Him service loyal, true,
There’s a work for Jesus none but you can do.*

There’s a work for Jesus, humble though it be,
'Tis the very service He would ask of thee.
Go where fields are whitened, and the labourers few;
There’s a work for Jesus none but you can do.

There’s a work for Jesus, precious souls to bring,
Tell them of His mercies, tell them of your King.
Faint not, nor grow weary, He will strength renew;
There’s a work for Jesus none but you can do.
(Elsie Duncan Yale 1912)

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my life, Lord, be glorified today
In your Church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified
In your Church, Lord, be glorified today.
(Bob Kilpatrick 1978 - Mission Praise 335)

Prayer

*Our Loving Heavenly Father and Glorious God,
We thank you for all your goodness to us, for health and strength and your grace that we might draw near to you with faith. Thank you for sending your Son to save us from our sins. May your church reflect Him as its Head and know the power of your Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Help the nations of the world in dealing with the pandemic, give us wisdom in our helplessness. May all you have made recognise their need of you. May all glory rightfully be yours. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Bible Verses for today

Read John Chapter 9.1-11

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourself, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2.8)

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9.8)

“Displaying the work of God”

“...this happened that the work of God might be displayed in his life.”

God's perfect creation knew no pain and suffering until sin became part of it. The suffering in the world today is the legacy of Adam's fall.

However, Jesus explains that specific suffering and sin cannot be equated. Man knows various limitations due to sin in general. They may be manifest in physical limitation, emotional and mental breakdown in differing measure but are certainly known by all in spiritual blindness. Thankfully, God in His grace sent His Son Jesus to do the “work of God” to give sight to all who believe in Him.

Jesus displayed the work of God in the man's life in John chapter 9. Later he would do an even greater work for Lazarus in Chapter 11: **“This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it” (v4)** God's work is for God's glory. The timing and way He works is for His glory.

Jesus spoke about light and darkness; day and night. Work can only be done in the day. However, Jesus greatest work was done in his darkest hour – on the Cross. **The work of salvation**, done once for all, was completed in physical and spiritual darkness. What a display of the work of God! In weakness and limitation he overcame Satan and triumphed in the light of the third day with power and glory.

Because of that work, God is able to work by His Spirit, **the work of sanctification** (making us more like Jesus). The Lord amazingly works in us and through us. **The work of service** is given to the Church to engage upon with the help of the Holy Spirit. With His help we are able to share what Jesus has done so that others can apply His work and receive spiritual sight – through faith.

The man who had been born blind is a blueprint of how spiritual sight and eternal life are known from the limitations of sin mankind has known. Without Jesus intervention the man's life was one of limitation and frustration. The miracle Jesus performed was amazing – changing the man's life – but was (actually) only part of how the work of God was being displayed in his life.