

The Power of Your Story
The Best Thing about Your Story

John 9

Dr. Steve Horn

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Text Introduction: We are in a series of messages on the Power of Story—not just any story, but the story of God’s activity in our lives. We are examining New Testament stories of individuals sharing their story. We want to specifically see what God would teach us from these stories about sharing our own story. So far, we have considered the story of Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night, the example of John the Baptist, the example of the very first disciples of Jesus, and last week the woman at the well. I’ve been telling you that you need to tell your story and others need to hear your story. Today, I want to talk to you about the very best thing about your story.

You have heard the story read this morning (It will be read throughout the service) of a man blind since birth healed by Jesus. The religious leaders of his day couldn’t believe it. Several times this man is questioned. Each time, he tells them what happened. His parents are questioned. Soon, though they cannot explain why, they cannot deny that this man who once was blind can now see. I love this one verse in the story that seems to put an exclamation point on the point of the story.

John 9:25: He answered, “Whether or not He’s a sinner, I don’t know. One thing I do know, I was blind, and now I can see!”

Here’s the Best Thing about Your Story: It’s Your Story!

When we began this series a few weeks ago, I reminded us that all of us have a story. More importantly, I urged you to make certain that you have the right story. That is, until our story has intersected at some point with the story of God, we have an incomplete story. Today, I want to underscore this truth that the best thing about your story is that it is your story. No one can take away your story. It is your story.

A man named Bob was blind for the first 51 years of his life. At 51, he had a complicated surgery that restored his sight. Think about that for just a moment. Think about seeing for the first time. Here’s how Bob described it:

I never would have dreamed that yellow is so yellow. I don’t have the words. I am amazed by yellow. But red is my favorite color. I just can’t believe red! I can see the shape of the moon—and there is nothing better than seeing a jet plane flying across the sky, leaving a vapor trail. And, of course, there are the sunrises and sunsets. And at night, I look at the stars in the sky and the flashing light. You could never know how wonderful everything is.¹

Just like moving from physical blindness to physical sight should change everything, moving from spiritual blindness to spiritual sight should change everything. And the best part is: It is very personal to you. It is your story.

And, because it is your story ...

¹ Greg Matte, *I Am Changes Who I Am*. Regal, 2012, p. 127-28.

No one can deny your story!

As is often the case in my preparation to deliver the message to you each week, thankfully I might add, I have fallen in love with this story of the blind man. Several parts of this story actually cause me to chuckle. I found myself smiling this week as I thought about this man. For example, when everyone is debating whether or not he was the same man who they knew to be blind, he is in the background saying, “I’m the one!” You ever feel that way? Everyone else is talking about you, trying to figure you out, trying to figure your story out, trying to psychoanalyze who you are, and there you are pretty simple about the whole thing saying, “It’s just me.”

Your story is **personal**—meaning that it is just for you. (Don’t confuse personal and private—we are to tell our story, but part of your story will always be personal.) The blind man in John 9 has a story—a personal story. He is not the only blind man healed by Jesus. His story is not the only one ever told in Scripture.

I looked this week at every other example of Jesus healing a blind person.

- Matthew 9—2 blind men who cry out, “Have mercy on us.” Jesus asked, “Do you believe?” They say, “Yes,” and Jesus touched them.
- Matthew 12—a man who could not see or speak—He healed him.
- Matthew 15—crowds brought all kinds of sick, including blind—He healed them.
- Matthew 20—2 begging on road as Jesus left Jericho to go to Jerusalem—He touched them.
- Matthew 21—crowds who came to Jesus in temple—He healed them.
- Mark 8—1 man—Jesus spit in his eyes and touched. The man saw some, and so Jesus touched him a second time, and He was healed.

But, this is the only time that a healing is recorded with the specific steps indicated in John 9. Why? I can’t say for sure, but I can’t help but wonder if it is not just to give that man his own story. It is though Jesus is saying, “What I am doing, I’m doing just for you.” This is your story!

No one can debate your story. People can debate theology, but they cannot debate your story. Just one caution, though.

Caution: Make sure you understand your story through the lens of Biblical revelation.

If your story does not line up with Biblical revelation, know that it is not from God.

Your story dilutes all other questions!

As it did for the blind man, our story of God’s activity in our lives usually produces questions. The religious leaders questioned whether the man was really ever blind. They questioned Jesus healing on the Sabbath. Here’s the part I love about this man’s story. He didn’t have all the answers, but of this one thing he was certain: He was blind and now he could see. We ought to be certain about that one thing in our lives—that Jesus saved us for eternal life. May we all be able to say with certainty, “This one thing I know.”

Caution: Make sure you do not ignore the valid questions.

First Peter 3:15 gives us a good word, “But set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”

We cannot avoid or ignore the hard questions, but we don't have to have all of the answers. The hard questions or fear of the hard questions cannot keep us from sharing our story.

Your story displays God's power!

Probably the most well-known part of this story is Jesus' response to the question about why this man was blind. Jesus' response focused on the glory of God. But, the emphasis on the glory of God does not end with this response. The glory of God is throughout this story. That Messiah would restore sight to blind was prophesied in the Old Testament. So, in part, this healing confirms Jesus as Messiah.

Each of our stories should point to God's power, but here is the caution.

Caution: Make sure your story indeed displays God's glory.

Unfortunately, it is very easy to be disillusioned and display our story without displaying God's glory.

This is the distinction between the blind man and the Pharisees.

Are you displaying the glory of God?