

“Establishing Reasons”

John 9:1-12

Many of the things that happen in life are a result of what we call “cause and effect.” For example, if I jump into a river or lake and I don’t know how to swim, most likely I will drown. Drowning is the effect of the cause, which is not knowing how to swim. If a person doesn’t have adequate food to eat, he or she will starve. Lack of food is the cause and starvation is the effect.

Hello friend, I’m J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, we’re an international Gospel media ministry. Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages. Thousands are tuning in each week to receive spiritual nourishment and blessing.

Here’s a testimony from a listener to our Telugu language programs in India. He writes, “The Word of God touched my heart. I am very delighted about it. The teaching is so clear and simple, yet profound. I have been immensely blessed by the teaching on the book of Romans. We live in deserted orchard all alone with our family under solar powered light. The teaching from the Word has encouraged us to trust in Him. Pray for our protection.”

What a wonderful testimony! We receive many testimonies like this one from many different parts of the world. We’d like to hear your testimony too.

On today’s broadcast of *Hope for Today*, we’re continuing our study in the Gospel of John So, I urge you to stay tuned. In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will present today’s teaching, “Establishing Reasons.”

“Why?” is an important question. It gets to the central issue. It is, we may say, the basic question. Why leads us to the reasons for what ever exists. Many never bother to ask why. They keep doing the same things without even thinking. Just going through the routine day after day without any bother to ask why.

Now, my friend, we are not a machine to do only one thing one way. God has given us minds with which we can think. We have the right, therefore, to establish the reasons for our actions. We can change if we want to and there are reasons to change. Of course, just to change for the

sake of change isn't really very smart. But we are not a machine. We can make changes and we can think over the reasons why we do what we do.

From a very interesting experience in the life of Jesus in John 9:1-12, we will learn about ESTABLISHING REASONS.

- 1 *And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man who was blind from his birth.*
- 2 *And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*
- 3 *Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*
- 4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*
- 5 *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*
- 6 *When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,*
- 7 *And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.*
- 8 *The neighbors therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?*
- 9 *Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.*
- 10 *Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?*
- 11 *He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.*
- 12 *Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.*

From this text we should learn to follow the INSTRUCTIONS which will help us to establish reasons for what we do.

First, Examine the Problem.

This was indeed a very critical problem, for the man was born blind. The disciples asked a right question. They said, “Who sinned, this man or his parents?” That’s what I meant by saying a why question is a very basic one. It is hidden in their question. Why is this man like he is? Who sinned? Somebody must have sinned, they thought.

They reasoned that any problem like a disease or a handicap was indeed the result of somebody’s sin. But Jesus corrected that. While they were examining the problem He answered, “Neither hath this man sinned nor his parents.”

He gave them a correction. This is a situation where the glory of God is going to be manifest. He answered them to help them understand exactly what the problem was. But they had a right to examine the problem and that’s the instruction I’m bringing to you. First of all, to establish the reasons examine the problem.

Then Jesus went on with a directed acknowledgment. He said, “I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day because the night comes when nobody can work.” Do what is yours to do when you ought to do it.

So here we have instruction number one: examine the problem that is before you when you are ready to establish the reasons.

The second instruction is Accept the Prescription.

Here was a man born blind. How was he to be made whole? How was he to receive his sight? We are told that Jesus spit on the ground and of the spital He made clay salve and put it on the eyes of the blind man.

Now we do not know if there was any medicine in that clay or in that saliva. We are not sure about that. However, Jesus went about it in a very simple way. It was not complex at all. After He had anointed, or put the salve on the man’s eyes, He gave him a very simple command: “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” He went and washed. Very simple obedience. He went his way and washed and came seeing.

We do not have any explanation as to how this man got to the pool of Siloam. Perhaps someone led him. But he did not doubt but that the prescription Jesus gave him would indeed make him well. So he went, he washed, he came seeing. He had no hesitancy to do what he was told. He did exactly what Jesus told him to do. Say, to establish your reason you had better accept what Jesus says.

The final instruction is Study the Puzzle.

When he came back seeing, the people who knew him, the neighbors and friends, first doubted that this was indeed the man who had been blind. So they tried to get his identification. They talked among themselves. They said, “Is not this he who was sitting and begging.” And some of them said, “Yes, this is the same man.” But others said, “No, no this is not the blind man. This is another like him.” But he said, “I am he.” And then they asked him how he received his sight.

Again, you see, they were studying the puzzle. They did not know exactly what the situation was but they were trying to arrive at the reasons for what had happened.

Now listen to the explanation: he said, “A man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed and I received my sight.” Now that should be simple enough for anybody. The answer was clear. It was no longer a puzzle because the man had answered the question.

Here then we have the instructions we must follow if we would establish the reasons for our actions: examine the problem; accept the prescription; and study the puzzle. Be sure you come out at the right answer like this man did.

My friend, do you believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God? If not, what are your reasons for not believing? Are they valid reasons or are you simply ignoring the evidence that is right in front of you? Do you refuse to believe because of the change it will bring to your life? The blind man we learned about today believed; he had firsthand evidence – he could see!

Now, if you were blessed by this teaching and would like an audio CD or a printed copy of it, just write and ask for the teaching “Establishing Reasons.” We would be happy to send a copy to you as soon as we receive your request.

The quickest way for you to contact us is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “Establishing Reasons.” We’d be happy to send one to you.

If you have questions about the Bible or how to live as a Christ-follower, we invite you to send those questions to us. We will take your questions to the Holy Scripture and find an answer. We want to help you grow in your understanding of God’s Word and in your relationship with Him. So, write to us today. Here’s the contact information again.

Send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, “Establishing Reasons.” It’s available in print or on an audio CD.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study in John’s Gospel with a message titled, “Measuring Values.” And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.