

SEEING IS BELIEVING

I don't have to understand everything about something to believe in it.

EG: How can an aeroplane stay in the air? (**aerodynamics**)

How does a ship not sink but a small needle does? (**buoyancy**)

People choose not to embrace Jesus because many things about Him just do not make sense! His;

- Conception. Conceived by the Holy Spirit rather than by a man.
- Incarnation. Being God yet He became human.
- Resurrection. He was dead for 3 days but came back to life.
- Ascension. Departed earth and returned back to heaven.

Some things about Jesus don't seem logical to the way we think.

We don't need all our questions answered to believe in who Jesus declared Himself to be!

One of Jesus' disciples, John wrote about a man born blind who met Jesus. From his story we understand that:

Big Idea: People will reject Jesus and His message of hope if they only focus on the unexplainable aspects about Jesus and His ministry.

John 9:1-38 *As He (Jesus) went along, He saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

In the Jewish world at that time, there was a belief that suffering and misfortune, was a result of sin, or the penalty of sin.

How could this man's blindness be a result of his own sin when he was born

blind? At the time, Jewish theologians had three possible answers for this;

- **Prenatal sin.** Someone could sin while in their mother's womb.
- **Pre-Existence of the Soul.** Before the creation of man, souls existed either in the Garden of Eden, or in a ‘*waiting*’ chamber - waiting to enter into a body.
- **Parental Sin.** A child’s affliction/sickness was due to the sin of their parents. Setting in motion a chain of consequences that is passed on generationally.

³“*Neither this man nor his parents sinned,*” said Jesus, “*but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.* Affliction, sorrow, pain, grief and sickness are opportunities for God to display His grace and healing power. ⁴*As long as it is day, we must do*

the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” “Hey guy’s, whilst I’m with you pay attention to what I do and what I say. Soon I am going to leave you and darkness will come.”

“The time is coming when you will shine the light of My life and truth into future generations so people will know what the Father is like and what He does.”

Then Jesus does something unusual; *⁶After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. That’s a bit weird!*

⁷“Go,” He told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam.” So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. He can see and hurries home to see his parents for the first time. ⁸His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked,

“Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” His neighbours were confused. They knew him as blind but couldn’t explain why now he could see. *But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”*

¹⁰*“How then were your eyes opened?”* they asked. I reckon he was thinking to himself “who cares!” “*I have been blind all of my life but now I see. Maybe we could celebrate but no... all you want is an explanation!*”

¹¹*He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” “I don’t know how mud made me see, I don’t even know what Jesus looks like, but I am so excited that now I can finally see!”*

12“Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know.” “Who cares where he is, I can see. I was a blind beggar most of my life and all you have is a bunch of questions of how, and who!” “I don’t know who he is, I don’t know how he did it, but I do know now I CAN SEE. Would someone get the party started!

13They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. 15Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” “Can we now hire a band and start the celebration? I can see!” 16Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” “We know what God is like, He lives in our box. We have Him under our control, and we know God

would not do a miracle on the Sabbath.” Surely then God did not heal this man.”

This healing didn’t make sense to them and they couldn’t explain it therefore, they refused to believe Jesus did it.

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. “You say it can’t be God because he was healed on the Sabbath, yet we cannot deny he has been miraculously healed, we’re confused! Will someone explain?”

“Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes He opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” “I don’t know what he looks like. I went home from the pool thinking we would have some kind of celebration. I don’t know if he is from God, all I know is that I was blind but now I see!”

“I can’t explain it, but I cannot deny the fact that now I can see! Why do you need an explanation? Can’t you just accept the fact that I can now SEE!” ¹⁸They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹“Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” We want an explanation! ²⁰“We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. They’re thinking, we don’t care, he can get a job now, clean up after himself, he can see, our hearts were broken when he was born blind but now, we are so happy! Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.”

²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the

synagogue. ²³*That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”* To be put out of the Synagogue basically meant that you were declared a “heretic” and couldn’t participate in Temple worship, meaning you were basically excommunicated, and this affected where you worked, and who you associated with.

This put the parents in a real awkward position. They wanted to celebrate but were afraid of being punished. ²⁴*A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”* ²⁵*He replied, “Whether He is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”*

“It doesn’t really matter to me if God is supposed to act like this or what day these things should happen...frankly I don’t care...the one thing is undeniably true and convinces me that whoever this

man is...he must be from God, because once I was blind and because of him now I can see!"

26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" "You seem so committed to want to figure all this out, are you interested in becoming his disciples too?" 28 Then they hurled insults at him because they couldn't explain what happened and it was out of their control, and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." And since we don't know and cannot explain it...then it just must not be true! 30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³²Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. Excommunicated him! Although he was undeniably healed!

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when He found him, He said, noting the man never seen Jesus before but he would recognise his voice “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶“Who is He, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in Him.” “Don’t you want some questions answered? Nope! Would you like to know how you were healed? Nope! Don’t care. I was blind but now I can see!”

³⁷Jesus said, “You have now seen Him; in fact, He is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” The man didn’t want an explanation he just believed. There were questions unanswered but one thing he couldn’t deny was that once he was blind but because of Jesus, he could see *and he worshiped Him.*

Here is the thing, we can doubt in Jesus when we only focus on the things that are unexplainable, loosing sight of the things that are undeniable!

We can doubt God when He doesn’t do things the way we expect them done. And doubt when God doesn’t answer our prayer and give us what we want. When God becomes unexplainable to us, all of a sudden, we can begin to doubt.

When we shift our focus from the things that are unexplainable about

Jesus and focus on the things that are undeniable about Him, our faith and trust in Him grows even with unanswered questions.

What is undeniable to me is that 2000+ years ago a Jewish carpenter aged around 30, started to teach some strange things opposite to what was taught in the day and He began to perform miracles and we know this happened because those people that were closest to Him and lived with Him wrote about these miracles and documented His teachings, known as the Gospels.

Roman history has documented that this man was crucified on a Roman cross, and eye witnesses wrote of the account of Jesus rising from the dead. And these same witnesses gave their life for the '**cause**' of Jesus, not because they had nothing better to do but because **it was**

undeniable that this dead man rose to life from the dead!

It is also undeniable that one third of the worlds population, from every continent and across most cultures believe in the message of hope and forgiveness of their sins because of what this man Jesus did on the cross and by rising from the dead.

We know more about this Jewish carpenter than any other person of history. **Because there is undeniable evidence that has been documented over the centuries of this man and what He did in the most read book in the world.**

Are there pieces missing, and things not fully explained? Yep! What is undeniable is that Jesus has made an undeniable change in millions of people lives across the centuries.

This truth that a Saviour came into the world, a carpenter's son who said that He was the light of the world and the lamb who gave His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world is undeniable.

Many at that time didn't take Him seriously but they did after He rose from the dead and 2000+ years later we still celebrate this undeniable fact in history.

Lastly, there is an undeniable thirst in everyone of God's creation that cannot be quenched or satisfied by the things of this world. Relationships won't satisfy this thirst, money, stuff won't satisfy it.

But what is undeniable is that that thirst is never quenched until it is connected to the life source (*God the Creator*) through His Son Jesus Christ.

There will always be pieces of God's puzzle that are unexplainable but as we

journey with God many of these pieces are found and so much more becomes clearer and undeniable.

The wise person is the one who says, “***I will shift my focus from the unexplainable to what is undeniable about Jesus Christ***”