

Do God's Works While You Can

International Bible Lesson

John 9:1-17

Sunday, April 29, 2012

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4—KJV).

"As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4—GNB).

"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4—NRSV).

When the disciples asked why a certain man had been born blind, Jesus answered, "that God's works might be revealed in him" (John 9:3). Most people know someone with disabilities in whom God has revealed His good works. God revealed His works in the blind man because Jesus took action toward his healing. God healed the blind man after the blind man responded to Jesus' treatment and washed his eyes in the pool of Siloam. God has revealed His works in many disabled and diseased people, because people of faith took action, and those they tried to help responded rightly to their efforts.

Jesus insisted that our open doors of opportunity to serve God and others might suddenly shut; therefore, we must do the works of God while we can. A time came in Jesus' ministry when darkness descended upon His disciples, because His body lay in a tomb and they could not do the works of God. After Jesus rose from the dead, He commissioned and empowered them to do the works of God again. Later, when each of His twelve disciples (except Judas and John) died a martyr's death, their opportunity to do the works of God in this world ended.

Jesus spoke of the works of God, not the work of God. God has given believers many different works to do. Some of God's works through believers may seem spectacular, but God does many works through believers quietly and unnoticed. Whatever works God calls believers to do are important, but night may come when no one can work until Jesus Christ returns as He promised.

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Thinking Further

1. How might Jesus' attitude and response toward the man born blind be a good example for His followers today when we remember that Jesus said, "He was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him" (John 9:3)?

2. Can you think of some examples from history or your own experiences when and where it was easier to do the work of God rather than at a later time and place? What does this teach you and your church?

3. What are some works of God that followers of Jesus can do today that they might not be allowed to do later "when night comes"?

4. Why do you think Jesus made a paste to heal the man's eyes rather than simply touch his eyes and heal him at the moment He spoke to him?

5. What good example or examples does the blind man give us when he washed his eyes at the pool of Siloam and was able to see after he washed them?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.