

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH CHAPPO!**

Invite your family,  
friends and neighbours  
to join us for

Open Church with

John Chapman

Sunday December 14th

8am, 9:30am and 6:30pm



Chappo is one of Australia's  
leading evangelists...  
with an international reputation  
spanning the UK, South Africa,  
and the USA.

**DON'T MISS THIS!**

## Seeing the Light

John 9

### *Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind*

<sup>1</sup>As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

<sup>3</sup>"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

<sup>5</sup>"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

<sup>6</sup>Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup>"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>8</sup>His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

<sup>10</sup>"How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded.

<sup>11</sup>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."

<sup>12</sup>"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

### *The Pharisees Investigate the Healing*

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup>Therefore 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."

<sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup>Finally 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."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. <sup>19</sup>"Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

<sup>20</sup>"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ<sup>11</sup> would be put out of the synagogue.

<sup>23</sup>That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."



<sup>24</sup>A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God,<sup>[a]</sup>" they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

<sup>25</sup>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!"

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

<sup>27</sup>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?"

<sup>28</sup>Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup>We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

<sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. <sup>32</sup>Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

<sup>34</sup>To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

### *Spiritual Blindness*

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

<sup>36</sup>"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

<sup>37</sup>Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

<sup>38</sup>Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

<sup>40</sup>Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

<sup>41</sup>Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

## Points to Ponder

How does the "I am" statement of verse 4 help make sense of this sign?

Jesus seems to be saying that the blind man's predicament was a God-given opportunity. By the time you read the whole chapter, what (or who) do you think he symbolises?

What does Jesus mean in verse 39?

What danger do the Pharisees face?

What can we learn from this warning?

# Life - Be in It!

John 11

*Read the passage, then think through the "points to ponder"*



<sup>1</sup>Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

<sup>4</sup>When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. <sup>7</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

<sup>8</sup>"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?"

<sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light."

<sup>10</sup>It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."

<sup>11</sup>After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

<sup>12</sup>His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." <sup>13</sup>Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup>So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

<sup>16</sup>Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

*Why is Jesus glad? How does this help understand the purpose of the sign he's about to do?*

*What do the disciples expect will happen when Jesus goes back to Judea? Why?*

## *Jesus Comforts the Sisters*

<sup>17</sup>On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was less than two miles<sup>[1]</sup> from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup>and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup>"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

<sup>24</sup>Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;* <sup>26</sup>*and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?*"

<sup>27</sup>"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ,<sup>[2]</sup> the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

<sup>28</sup>And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you."

<sup>29</sup>When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup>When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

*Note this! Can you recall some of the other "I am" statements Jesus has made?*

*How will he demonstrate this one?*

<sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

<sup>34</sup>"Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup>Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

<sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

*What do you think? So why didn't he?*

### *Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead*

<sup>38</sup>Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup>"Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

<sup>40</sup>Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

<sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

*Again, Jesus has a purpose in mind. What is it?*

<sup>43</sup>When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

*When we see another tomb with a stone across the front of it later in John's gospel, this sign should give us some confidence!*

### *The Plot to Kill Jesus*

<sup>45</sup>Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. <sup>46</sup>But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup>Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

*What is the reaction of many of the Jews?*

<sup>48</sup>"What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place <sup>3</sup> and our nation."

*What's the reaction of others?*

<sup>49</sup>Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! <sup>50</sup>You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."

*What's the irony of these words from Caiaphas?*

<sup>51</sup>He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, <sup>52</sup>and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. <sup>53</sup>So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

*What will the ultimate death and resurrection of Jesus accomplish?*