



Giving Sight to a Man Born Blind

John 9:1-39

"Sorry I'm late!" Algie yelled as he neared the group standing outside of the big, gray metal hangar doors. He jogged the last few yards down the jungle path and stopped next to Popsy. He leaned over to catch his breath as Popsy looked at his watch impatiently and scanned the sky. The he announced loudly, "Hullo there, Bonzai Family Rescue Patrol! Gather round!"

Mumsy, 800 Pound Gorilla, Algie, and Pepper turned to face Popsy. Popsy had called this meeting just an hour earlier and had refused to explain why they all had to gather at the hangar at "0900" hours. They could only imagine why he had chosen to use military time to tell them that the meeting would begin at 9 o'clock. They also wondered why Chauncey was not with them.

Popsy turned around to look at the sky one more time before explaining his reason for calling the meeting. "Well team," he began. "We've been workin' awfully hard to prepare our new patrol business. As you know, I'm really good at wrassling huge beasties and pirates. And Mumsy is a great wilderness cook and of course, you boys are expert pilots but we need somebody to help us find our way through the blinding jungles and uncharted countries. So, I've asked my good friend, Wyoming Jones, to join our team! He can find anyone and he is going to train us to do the same! Chauncey has gone to pick him up and they should be back any moment."

Just as Popsy finished speaking, the sound of Chauncey's plane engine filled the air. Everyone watched as he lowered his landing gear, and touched down smoothly onto one end of the airstrip. And that was the end of the perfect landing attempt. True to his Bonzai name, Chauncey's plane bounced down the runway and skidded to a stop in the bushes. Then, Chauncey and his passenger popped open their doors and jumped to the ground.

Wyoming, the passenger and newest member of the team, was tall and thin with a mass of bright red hair sticking out from under a big cowboy hat. When he saw Popsy, he broke into a run and yelled, "Clear a path! Clear a path! Hello Popsy!"

Popsy grabbed Wyoming's hand for a shake then gave him a big bear hug. "Welcome, Welcome!" He greeted his friend. He introduced Wyoming to the rest of the group then asked, "Wyoming, you are an expert at rescuing people from the jungles without a map or a trail! How do you do that?"

Wyoming smiled and said, "Popsy, you're always ready to get right down to business, aren't you! Well there are a couple of secrets to rescuing lost people. Number one, the person needs to realize they are lost and want to be rescued."

Popsy nodded. "That makes sense. What's the second thing?"

"Number two is when you can't see a clear path, walk toward the light," Wyoming continued.

"Why should we walk toward the light?" Pepper asked, thinking he usually tried to avoid the darkness anyway.

Wyoming turned around to look at the hangar behind them. He walked over to the side door and peeked inside; then waved the group over to join him. "I'll show you. Come inside this dark hangar and let's all pretend that we're lost in the jungle at night."

Popsy and the rest of the Rangers followed Wyoming through the door. "Wow, it's a little dark and scary." Algie noted, a small quiver in his voice.

"Ow! Hey, watch out for the bird!" Pepper yelled as he felt someone trip in the dark and step on his tail feathers.

Wyoming's loud voice rang out through the darkness in the large metal building. "Lots of times there are so many trees and vines and branches in the way that the jungle gets very dark." A flashlight clicked on and a bright beam of light pierced the blackness. "But, if we look up to the sun we can walk towards a clearing or higher ground where we can send a signal and be rescued!"

"Aye! That reminds me of Jesus!" Popsy said excitedly.

Wyoming turned the beam of the flashlight he was holding so that they could see Popsy. "Popsy, I know Jesus was never lost in the jungle." Wyoming assured him.

"True," Popsy agreed. "But, He did teach us a lot about looking to the light and being rescued. Here, I'll show you. Let me get my Bible out right now! Shine that light over my shoulder, Wyoming, so that I can see my Bible."

Popsy pulled his Bible out of his pocket and thumbed through the pages until he reached the right passage. "Aye! Here we are in John 9. In this story Jesus heals a man who was born blind."

"Well, had someone done wrong? Chauncey's voice asked from the darkness beyond the reaches of the flashlight beam.

"Nope!" Popsy responded.

"Well...then...did God make a mistake?" Wyoming asked.

"Nope!" Popsy said. "God never makes mistakes! Jesus said this happened so that we could see the work of God in this man's life."

"Oh, this is the best part! Tell them how God did work in his life!" Mumsy called out.

"Aye! He sure did!" Popsy agreed. "Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud, put it on the man's eyes. Then Jesus told him to go wash the mud off in the Pool of Siloam."

"Did the man do it?" Chauncey asked.

"Of course, he did! King Jesus Himself had told him to! And when he washed off the mud, he was healed and could see!" Popsy flipped the hangar's light switch and the yellow bulbs hanging high over the cement floor flickered on.

"Just like we can see now! It was a miracle!"

"A miracle!" The entire group standing in the hangar agreed in unison as they blinked to adjust their eyes to the bright light.

"Wow, I bet everyone was excited by the miracle King Jesus did!" Wyoming noted as he turned off his flashlight.

Popsy laughed. "You'd think they would be!" He agreed. "But there was a group of Jewish leaders called Pharisees who were very upset because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath!"

"What?" Pepper squawked. "They weren't happy that the man could see?"

"Nope, God's Law said the Sabbath was their day of rest, and they thought healing on the Sabbath was breaking the rule. So they thought Jesus had broken the rules." Popsy replied.

"Well now that's just silly, dear!" Mumsy scoffed.

"Exactly!" Popsy agreed. "They were so busy worrying over the rules that they completely missed the miracle! They remind me of the people who don't realize they're lost and need to be rescued."

Popsy nodded. "Aye, it's true. They were too proud to look up and see the light, but the blind man was about to see the light for sure! Jesus asked the man if he believed in the Savior."

"What did the man say?" Algie asked as he wiped the dust from a stool and sat down.

Popsy looked down at his Bible and searched for the correct verse. He read, "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."'"

"Did Jesus tell the man that He was the Savior?" Wyoming asked.

"He did."

"What did the man say?" Wyoming asked further.

"He said, 'Lord, I believe.'" Popsy quoted.

Wyoming gave Popsy a hearty slap in the back. "Amen! Good story, ole Popsy! That man was a double rescue! Jesus saved him from the darkness of his blind eyes AND saved him from the darkness of a heart that didn't believe in Jesus."

"Aye," Popsy agreed. "Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the world!'"

"That reminds me of rule number two! When you can't see a clear path, walk toward the light!" Wyoming added.

"Jesus said that is the reason He came - to be the light." Mumsy said.

Wyoming nodded and agreed. "It's true – Jesus came, and the blind man could see! He not only saw Jesus with his eyes, he saw with his heart that Jesus was his Savior. That's incredible!"

"It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!" echoed through the hangar as the entire family chanted their family motto together.

"Great motto!" Wyoming cheered. "Okay, let's get down to some serious jungle training. Follow me." He said as he led the group out into the bright sunlight and into the jungle.