

The Gospel of John

The Call of God

John 9:35-41

INTRODUCTION:

Open your Bible to the ninth chapter of John. Before we begin in the final passage of chapter 9, I would like to condense what has happened up to this point.

Jesus is in Jerusalem. He is going through one of the temple gates. And He comes upon a man who has been born blind. He has been reduced to being a beggar. Jesus walks up to him, puts mud over his eyes, and tells him to go and wash it off at the pool of Siloam. When he does, he is immediately able to see! For the first time in his life he can see.

Then some encounters begin. First of all, his neighbors are trying to figure out how this happened. How could this blind man, whom they know very well, now see? So, he goes through an interrogation with them. He cannot really answer **who** did this because he had never saw Him and he does not know just exactly how the washing of the mud caused him to see. But, he is convinced that whoever did this was from God. He then is brought to the Pharisees, who are supposed to render some kind of kind of spiritual explanation or divine explanation as to how this could happen. Especially considering the fact that they are claiming that Jesus is a fraud. How could an ordinary man cause someone to see? Because, as the blind man says, it is never been heard in the history of the world that anyone had ever caused a blind man to see. And so, there is an interrogation by the Pharisees.

They already have their verdict before they start the questioning. They believe that Jesus is an insane, demon-possessed, satanic imposter. And with that conclusion, they fake an investigation. They reject the testimony of the man, they reject the testimony of the neighbors, and they eventually end up throwing the man who can now see out of the synagogue. He was already an outcast, because anybody who was born blind was believed to have been cursed by God for sin. Maybe the sin of his parents, maybe his own sin. This really did not change his life to be thrown out because he had never been allowed to interact in the synagogue due to his supposed sin anyway. He has been always been an outcast and beggar. His own family is embarrassed by him. His mother and a father show up in the story and they throw him under the bus to protect themselves. But think about it: if they had any love for a blind son, he would not have been a beggar. They would have cared for him, as any sensible, normal parent would do.

So, this is a man who has been completely rejected by everyone. And now, a miracle has happened and he can see. But he finds himself struggling to get people to accept what has happened. Those who are his neighbors see it, but cannot explain it. The Pharisees see it but refuse to accept it for what it is. A miracle! And finally, when the interrogation is over in verse 34, the Pharisees' last prideful words were: **“You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out.**

Then Jesus enters the scene in verse 35.

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 9:35-41 (NASB)

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” ³⁸ And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. ³⁹ And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Prayer

BODY:

I. SPIRITUAL SIGHT BRINGS SALVATION.

This passage shifts from the new found physical sight of the beggar to his new found spiritual sight. I want remind you of what the scriptures say was the purpose of his physical blindness.

A. SPIRITUAL SIGHT REQUIRES DIVINE INTERVENTION.

When the disciples asked Jesus why this man was born blind, this was His answer.

John 9:3 (NASB)

³ Jesus answered, “*It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*”

He was born blind in order that this miracle could take place and glorify God. This man is going to be an illustration of one who not only sees physically for the first time, but who will see spiritually for the first time.

Both of these elements require **divine intervention**. This man does not have any capability to make himself see physically, nor does he have any capability to make himself see spiritually. He cannot do anything to help himself. There was no such thing as a surgeon who could fix something in his eye and enable him to see. If he is going to see, heaven has to come down and find him, locate him, and that is exactly what happens.

As we begin this text, Jesus hears that they had put him out.

John 9:35 (NASB)

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

I love the way John writes this...“**and finding him.**” This is how you receive spiritual sight. It all starts with a divine intervention.

Luke 19:10 (NASB)

10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Jesus did not come just for the saving, but also to seek the lost. Romans 3:11 tells us that no man seeks after God. We would not know where to go. We would not know who to look for. So Jesus is the one Who seeks.

The Lord initiates spiritual sight, just like He initiated physical sight with this man. There were a lot of beggars. There were a lot of sick people. He chose to seek this man for His own purposes. He sought him out when this man could have never found Him. He was totally blind. Christ is always the initiator of salvation, always the seeking Savior. **Just as the blind man has no power to give himself physical sight, the sinner does not have the power to give himself spiritual sight. It has to be initiated in heaven.**

So, Jesus finds the man. This is where spiritual sight begins. This is a powerful illustration of it because this is a helpless, hopeless man. And I want to remind you, **So is every sinner!**

This may seem, then, that this is a random encounter and that this man was just a lucky lotto winner. But we must remember that God knows the heart of men. This event has been planned since the beginning of time for the purpose of glorifying God. The scriptures say that if we truly seek God we **WILL** find him. I suspect that this man was seeking God.

He was well-schooled in the Old Testament, even though He has not been allowed in the synagogue. This man has absorbed the Old Testament truth even though he cannot read. We do not know how, but He is very wise. He knows, for example, that there is no record ever in history of anybody being healed of blindness. He also knows what characterizes a prophet. And he has said of Jesus, "**He is of God.**" He does the will of God. He is one who God hears. He is a prophet." So, He is a very knowledgeable of the scripture.

So Jesus finds him, and He initiates a conversation. **He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"** That is a really important question.

The Jews all understood the Messianic title, the "Son of Man". So, our Lord says to him, "**Do you believe in the Son of Man?"** Do you believe in the Messiah? Do you believe that the Messiah is coming to establish His kingdom?

This is the first step in bringing spiritual sight. A darkened, spiritually blind man is found by Christ, for Christ's own saving purposes. Then we discover that if he is to receive spiritual sight, he must have faith. Listen to how he answers.

B. SPIRITUAL SIGHT REQUIRES FAITH.

John 9:36 (NASB)

36 He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

What an amazing question! Here is a man who is ready to believe. He just wants to know who to believe in. This is not easily understood.

It is not because of what we say that people believe. It is because of what God has done to open them to believing that they respond to what we say. This is an amazing thing.

Here is a man who is saying, "I am ready to believe. Who do I believe in? That is a prepared heart. That is good soil.

What an amazing miracle. This is not some kind of rational response where you have convinced this guy he needs to believe based on facts. The Holy Spirit has enabled him to believe, even before the facts become clear. So he responds in faith and asks "Who is He, that I may believe in Him?"

John 9:37 (NASB)

37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."

Wow. We do not know how much this man knew of Jesus teachings before this point in his life. Certainly, he had not **seen** any miracles. But he had experienced his own. Many people who saw or even experienced miracles could not overcome spiritual darkness. But God is overcoming his spiritual darkness by giving him faith. And all he wants to know is who He is supposed to put that faith in. Jesus says, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one talking with you." It is I. And how did he respond?

C. SPIRITUAL SIGHT CONFESSES CHRIST.

John 9:38 (NASB)

38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

Where there is the miracle of spiritual sight, there will be a confession of Jesus as Lord.

He said, "Lord, I believe." He did **not** say, "Could you give me some evidence why I should believe that?" Just the fact that Jesus had caused him to see was enough for him to confess that Jesus had to be from God. He knew that Jesus was a prophet. And if a prophet from God says, "I am the Son of Man. I am the long-awaited Messiah," that is enough for this man. He has a prepared heart. And he worships Him.

You know you are a believer when you become a worshiper.

This man falls on his knees in adoration. This is what spiritual sight produces.

So, if you are questioning yourself "How do I know if I am saved?" Ask yourself if you love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Do you desire to be obedient to his word? Do you desire to worship God?

Worship is essential in our walk with Christ. Often I ask people why they do not come to church. They give all kinds of reasons. "I need to catch up on my sleep." "I have other things that I have to do". "So and so bothers me". Blah, blah, blah. The bottom line is very likely that they are not believers, because believers worship. If you are a believer, that will be a priority in your life. I am not saying that the only place you worship is in church. It is not! But this is what lifts you up and strengthens you and encourages you for the rest of those hours when you worship as an independent person. This is time of fellowship is critical. It fulfills the longing of our heart, to honor the Lord, to hear from the Lord, to exalt the Lord, and to praise the Lord. **To Be Worshipers!**

So here is a man with two biographies. He is blind physically and spiritually. He is sought by the Lord physically and spiritually. He is given physical sight and spiritual

sight. He is given an opportunity to testify about the Lord. He is forsaken by his family. He is hated by the enemies of the gospel. He is thrown out of the religion of his day because of his association with Christ. He is a picture of what it is to be a Christian. He takes his place at the feet of the Savior and becomes a worshiper. That is what all believers do.

II. SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS BRINGS JUDGMENT.

When Jesus declared who He was to the Pharisees back in John 8:59 the reaction is totally different. They picked up stones to stone Him. That is what spiritual blindness produces.

John 9:39 (NASB)

39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see,...

This is like the blind man. It is like sinners who repent and believe
and that those who see may become blind."

Jesus is comparing the repentant heart of the blind beggar to the stubborn hatred of the Pharisees. Jesus is saying that this is how it is going to be in my coming. Even though the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost and even though He does not come for judgment there will be some who will reject him.

This is like the Pharisees. They **thought** they had spiritual sight, but they were blind. Jesus refers to them as "*those who see*". Despite the fact that Jesus came to seek and save the lost, he also tells us that He did not come for the self-righteous.

Luke 5:31-32 (NASB)

31 And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Jesus did not come the first time to judge the world as He will in the final judgment. However there will be a judgment that happens at the point at which the gospel is introduced to a person. There is a dividing that takes place between the believer and the unbeliever. That division is a judgment in itself.

John 3:18 (NASB)

18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

If a person does not see anything desirable about Jesus dying on the cross for their salvation that is a judgment on that person. That is a self-condemnation.

That is the position of the Pharisees. They do not believe that they need anything. They **think** they can see clearly. They see it all. They know God. They know the truth. They **know** that Jesus is a vile sinner, a satanic, demonic, insane man. Jesus calls them

"those who see". Their self-righteousness has caused them to be spiritually blind. Jesus did not come for the self-righteous.

John 9:40 (NASB)

⁴⁰ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?"

Again, speaking metaphorically, they refused to admit their blindness. You are not saying that we, the most learned, righteous, and holy, representatives of God, are blind, are You? Well, that is exactly what He was saying. This man was spiritually blind, but now he can see, spiritually. You **think YOU** can see spiritually, but in reality you are spiritually blind. The idea of spiritual blindness to them is a joke. Listen how Jesus responds to them.

John 9:41a (NASB)

⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin;..."

Here Jesus is using the word "**blind**" in a completely different way. In verse 40 Jesus used the word "**blind**" in the sense that you do not see your sin. You are spiritually blind. But in this verse He says "**If you were blind, you would have no sin;**".

He is basically saying now that they are not blind. How can that be?

Jesus is telling them that they are not "blind" concerning the truth. They have heard the truth of God and they have rejected it. If you were truly blind to the truth, if you had no knowledge of the truth, if you did not have the Old Testament, the law, and all the prophets, and did not have all the demonstration of who I am, you would be truly blind and not understand your sin. There is a less severe judgment that falls on those who have no knowledge. But you are not blind because you have been told the truth. You are blind in the sense that you do not see your own sin. You are not blind in the sense that you have been exposed to the truth. You have heard My words. You have seen the miracles. You have decided to reject it. You have no excuse.

The end result of refusing to admit to their blindness leads to **eternal** darkness.

John 9:41b (NASB)

⁴¹...but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

You believe that the spiritual blindness that you are in is actually spiritual sight. Therefore your sin remains.

CONCLUSION:

John 1:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Go Tell it on the Mountain.