

John 9:35-41

When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ The man answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.”

³⁷ “You have seen him,” Jesus said, “and he is speaking to you!”

³⁸ “Yes, Lord, I believe!” the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

³⁹ Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, “Are you saying we’re blind?”

⁴¹ “If you were blind, you wouldn’t be guilty,” Jesus replied. “But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.”

Background

In verses 35–38, Jesus met with the healed man to help him grasp the full significance of his experience. The man’s response, “Yes, Lord, I believe,” and his act of worship show that he now walks in the light, both physically and spiritually.

In contrast, verses 39–41 portray the Pharisees judging Jesus and the man, but Jesus turns the judgment back on them. They have physical sight, but they are spiritually blind. They claim to see clearly, but their confident rejection of Jesus only confirms the depth of their blindness.

Teaching Points

1. God continues His work in every believer’s life.

Philippians 1:6 teaches that God, who begins a good work in believers, will carry it on to completion. This is illustrated in John 9, where physical healing reflects spiritual salvation. The clay may symbolize our humble beginnings and the humility needed for salvation, while the Pool of Siloam represents the work of the Holy Spirit (often pictured in Scripture as water), who convicts and draws us to Christ.

Jesus didn’t just heal the man; He continued to grow his faith. Likewise, He doesn’t simply save us and leave us. He continues His sanctifying work in every believer.

2. The end result of correct theology should be worship.

In John 9, the healed blind man first called Jesus a prophet (v17), showing genuine but immature faith. As Jesus revealed Himself as the Son of God, the man responded with belief and worship—demonstrating spiritual growth. As we grow in our understanding of who God is, our response should be heartfelt praise. The more we know God, the more we should worship Him.

3. Everyone was blind or will be blind.

In verse 39, Jesus says He came *“to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”* This verse doesn’t contradict John 12:47, where Jesus says He came to save, not judge. The difference lies in emphasis: John 12:47 speaks of God’s purpose in sending Jesus, while John 9:39 highlights the result of His coming.

Those who admit their spiritual blindness and come to Jesus receive sight. But those, like the Pharisees, who claim spiritual insight while rejecting Him, become even more blind. Everyone is either spiritually blind or **was** blind and now sees. There’s no third option. Which are you?

Application

1. The Lord will find you when you’re hurting.

When the healed man was cast out of the synagogue in verse 35, he was likely deeply upset. In that day (and sometimes today) being expelled from the synagogue meant being cut off from the community and even one’s family. It was a painful and isolating experience, but Jesus found him. The man didn’t have to search for Jesus; Jesus sought him.

This reveals a powerful truth: when we’re hurting—emotionally, physically, or spiritually—the Lord comes to us with the comfort we need.