



## TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

### John 9:35-41: The Faith of the Healed Man and the Spiritual Blindness of the Pharisees

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*"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"*

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

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

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

*39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains."*

#### Background Notes

The healing of the blind man in John 9 is the sixth sign miracle in the Gospel of John to specifically point people to belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. In John 20:30-31, we read *"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* The healing of the blind man took place in Jerusalem. The Lord took some dirt, mixed it with His saliva and placed this mud on the blind man's eyes. Then told him to go and wash it off in the Pool of Siloam, and the man obeyed. He did what the Lord asked him to do, and he received his sight. Quite a miracle! It definitely confirmed the deity of Christ -- but the Pharisees didn't become believers. Remember, the Pharisees were members of a religious sect within Judaism at the time of Christ. Most of the Pharisees were self-righteous hypocrites and they would **not** accept the fact that Jesus was the Messiah.

After the healing of the blind man, the Pharisees did everything they could to discredit the Lord and belittle the man who was healed. In fact they reviled the man who was healed! They were convinced that this man was born blind because he was a sinner. They totally forgot the teaching of the book of Job that physical suffering can be for reasons other than sin. In fact, verse 3 tells us that this man was born blind so that the works of God should be revealed in him!

In his conversation with the Pharisees, the healed blind man showed the Pharisees how bigoted they really were. As a result, they hated him even more, and in their bitterness and anger they kicked him out of the synagogue. At this point that the Lord met the man once again, and that meeting leads us to our doctrinal points from this section of John 9.

#### Doctrinal / Teaching Points

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

In Philippians 1:6 we read, *"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* The Bible teaches that God continues His work in every believer's life. I think we see this biblical truth illustrated in the way our Lord continued to work with the blind man who had been healed.

As we have mentioned before, the healing of the man who was born blind is a picture of salvation. We were born spiritually blind, but the Lord has saved us and now we have spiritual sight. The clay placed on the man's eyes may represent our humble beginnings and the humble place we must take in receiving salvation. The waters of the Pool of Siloam (which means "sent") may represent the work of the Holy Spirit in our salvation. In Scripture, water is often a picture of the work of the Holy Spirit, and certainly the Holy Spirit was sent to bring us to salvation.

Now notice: the Lord didn't just heal the blind man -- He **continued to work with him** so that his faith could grow. In the same way, the Lord doesn't just save us and leave us on our own -- He continues to work with us. God continues his work in every believer's life -- *"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* This, by the way, is known as the Lord's work of sanctification in our lives. God continues His work in every believer's life.

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

Go back to verse 17. The Pharisees said to the blind man, *"What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?"* He said, *"He is a prophet."* Well, the Lord was a prophet, but He was much more than a prophet! He is **God** -- but the man didn't fully realize this yet.

The man had a genuine faith, but it was not yet a mature faith. He needed to grow in the area of theology, which is the study of God. He needed to come to the realization that Jesus is fully God, and that is exactly what took place here in this last section of John 9. The Lord found the man and said, *"Do you believe in the Son of God?"* He answered and said, *"Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"* And Jesus said to him, *"You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."* Then he said, *"Lord, I believe!"* And he worshiped Him (v35-38). The man had come to realize that Jesus was fully God, because only **God** is to be **worshiped!** The end result of correct theology should be worship.

Is it that way in our lives? That's the way it should be! The result of coming to know more about the Lord shouldn't just be an accumulation of knowledge-- it should result in worship! The end result of correct theology is should be worship.

I love to read the old commentaries, commentaries written by earlier Christians. Some go way back to the early centuries, and some are from the time of the Reformation -- Calvin, Luther, etc. I like to read these old commentaries because periodically these Christians burst into praise as they wrote! They would be writing along, explaining a verse of scripture -- but then suddenly they would launch off into a tangent of praise! That's fantastic! And that's what should happen in our lives as well. The more we know about God, the more we should praise and worship Him. The end result of correct theology should be worship.

### 3. Everyone was blind -- or will be blind.

In verse 39 the Lord said, *"For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."* The first part of the Lord's statement sounds like a contradiction to what he says in John 12:47: *"And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world."* It sounds like a contradiction, doesn't it? But it's not a contradiction. In John 12:47, God's **purpose** is in view. Here in John 9, the **result** is in view.

The Lord's purpose in coming to this earth was not to judge, but to save. However, unfortunately, those people who **don't** believe **will** be judged. The result will be judgment. And here's what the judgment will be: *"For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."* If you acknowledge that you're spiritually blind and come to Christ you will see. But if you refuse to acknowledge that you're blind, and you claim that you can see without accepting Christ, forget it. You will be made blind! That is, you will become even **more** blind than you are now!

The Pharisees were in this latter category. In verse 40 they asked the Lord, *"Are we blind also?"* The Lord replied, *"If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains"(v41).* In other words, the Lord was saying, "Pharisees, if you would acknowledge that you are blind and come to Me in faith and receive me as the Messiah, you would receive sight. Your spiritual eyes would be opened! But because you say you don't need to come, and you say that you can see when you actually are blind -- you will stay that way!"

Do you see the doctrinal point? Everyone – and that includes all of us – each one of us either **was** blind, or **will be** blind. There is no other category! Which category are you in? Everyone was blind -- or will be blind.

### Practical Application

#### The Lord will find you when you are hurting.

In verse 35 we see that the man was put out of the synagogue, and the Lord found him. *"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of God?'"* The man must have been really hurting at this point, suddenly finding himself expelled from the synagogue and ostracized from the community. Not a pleasant experience! But the Lord found him.

Notice that the man didn't have to go looking for the Lord -- the Lord found him! In the same way, the Lord will "find" you when you are hurting. He knows all about your hurts -- when you are hurting, and why you are hurting. Are you hurting in some way? Emotionally? Physically? Spiritually? Most of us are hurting in some way. Well, here is what we can count on: we can be sure that when we are hurting, we can turn to the Lord for help. He'll be there! But more than that, **He** will find **us**; the Lord Himself will find you when you're hurting.

A few weeks ago I was talking with a Christian couple that had recently lost their long-awaited first child through a miscarriage. They shared that they were really hurting -- in fact, that they had been somewhat bitter. They may not have been turning

to the Lord as much as they should have. But the Lord found them and brought healing into their lives! I'm sure you could share similar experiences. The fact that the Lord will find you when you're hurting is certainly a truth that is taught right here in John 9. The Lord will find you when you are hurting!