

### Faith of the Healed Man; Spiritual Blindness of the Pharisees

#### John 9:35-41

John 9:35-41 - *“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?”*

<sup>36</sup> *He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”*

<sup>37</sup> *And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.”* <sup>38</sup> *Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.*

<sup>39</sup> *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.”* <sup>40</sup> *Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?”* <sup>41</sup> *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. In John 20:30-31 the apostle John said *“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.”* These “sign” miracles were specifically selected to point people to belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

The healing of the blind man took place in Jerusalem. The Lord took dirt, mixed it with His saliva, and placed the mud on the blind man’s eyes. Then He told the man to go to the Pool of Siloam and wash it off. And the man obeyed. When he did what the Lord asked him to do, he received his sight.

That was quite a miracle! It definitely confirmed the deity of Christ, and proved that Jesus was Messiah - but the Pharisees didn’t believe. Remember, the Pharisees were members of a religious sect within Judaism at the time of Christ. Most of the Pharisees were self-satisfied, self-righteous hypocrites, and they did **not** want to accept the fact that Jesus was the Messiah.

So 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 and insulted the healed man! They were convinced that this man was blind from birth because he was a sinner. They forgot the clear teaching in the book of Job that God may allow physical suffering for reasons other than sin. In fact, verse 3 specifically says that this man was born blind so that the works of God could be revealed in him!

In his conversation with the Pharisees, the healed man showed the Pharisees how bigoted they really were. They couldn't refute his statements. As a result, they hated him even more, and in their bitterness and anger they kicked him out of the synagogue - one of the worst penalties they could inflict.

At that point 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 and obedient place we must take in receiving salvation.

The waters of the Pool of Siloam may represent the work of the Holy Spirit in our salvation (Siloam means "sent"). In Scripture, water is often a picture of the work of the Holy Spirit, and certainly the Holy Spirit was sent to convict us of sin and bring us to salvation.

Now notice: the Lord didn't just heal the blind man. The Lord **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: *"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

God continues his good work in every believer's life. This 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! Jesus Christ is **God** - but the man didn't fully realize this yet.

The healed 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 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).* How do we know that the man had truly come to realize that Jesus was fully God? Because the man worshiped the Lord Jesus, and only **God** is to be **worshiped!**

The end result of correct theology should be worship. Is that the way it is in your life - in my life? 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 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 would 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 appears to contradict 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 earth was not to judge, but to save. Unfortunately, however, for those people who *don’t* believe, the **result** of the Lord’s coming to earth will be judgment. They **will** be judged.

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 *think* you can see and refuse to acknowledge that you’re actually spiritually blind, and you claim that you’ll be just fine without coming to 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. They thought they had perfect spiritual sight - but they were blinded to the truth by their idea that they could make points with God by strictly following their own man-made religious rules.

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 told them, “Pharisees, if you would acknowledge that you’re spiritually blind, and come to Me in faith and receive me as the Messiah, your spiritual eyes would be opened. You would receive true spiritual sight! 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're hurting!

In verse 35 the man was thrown out of the synagogue, and then 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 upset and filled with hurt when he suddenly found himself expelled from the synagogue. In that day (and sometimes today as well), if you were expelled from the synagogue you were ostracized from the community, and even expelled from your family. 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're in a troubled time. He knows all about your sorrow and pain. He knows when you're hurting, and why you're hurting.

Are you experiencing hurt in some way? Emotionally? Physically? Spiritually? Most of us have pain or sadness or hurt in some area of our lives. Well, we can count on this: we can be sure that when we're 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 and bring you the specific comfort you need 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 were really hurting - in fact, in their pain and disappointment they had become somewhat bitter. In their emotional pain, they may not have turned to the Lord as much as they should have - but the Lord found them! They told me He had brought comfort and healing into their lives!

I'm sure you could share a similar experience. The fact that the Lord will find you when you're hurting is a wonderful truth that is taught right here in John 9.

The Lord will find you when you are hurting.