

“I Was Blind, But Now I See”

John 9:24-41

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To examine the healing and subsequent excommunication of the man born blind. To realize there are many false religious leaders in the world today who are blind spiritually and cannot see. To recognize the courage of the man as he faced the fierce opposition of the religious leaders before coming to faith in Christ. To understand there should be a radical transformation in every believer’s life after they are born-again.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: The man born blind was healed by Jesus on the Sabbath Day angering the religious authorities (John 9:24-29)

1. In **John chapter 9**, Jesus healed a man born blind. The disciples of Jesus assumed the man was blind because of a specific sin either he or his parents had committed. Neither was true as Jesus gave them a third option, the correct one. The man was born blind so that *“the works of God should be revealed in him”* (**vs. 3**). How did Jesus glorify God through this man?

2. How does all sickness and death today relate to the time of Adam and Eve and the Fall of Man? (See **Gen. 2 & 3**) Do certain sins lead to illness and death today? Can you name some? Was this man born blind because of a particular sin he committed? Why or why not? What method did Jesus use to heal this man (**vs. 6**)? How did Jesus require the man to demonstrate his faith (**vs. 7**)? What happened when he obeyed the instructions of Jesus?

3. With obedience comes blessing, with disobedience comes curse. What are some activities that the Lord has asked you as a Christian to do? (See **Prov. 3:5-6; Matt. 19:21; 22:36-40; Acts 16:31; Gal. 2:10**) Are you doing them? On a scale of 1-10, how would you grade your obedience to Christ?

4. In the context of **verse 24**, was it a good thing or a bad thing when the Pharisees demanded the man to *“Give God the glory”*? (See **Josh. 7:19-26**) What did the religious leaders want the healed man to do? Have you ever turned your back on Jesus because of peer pressure? Why do you think it’s so easy to compromise when peer pressure comes?

5. Did the healed man compromise or stand firm on the truth (**vs. 25**)? How was the man's response different from that of his parents (**vv. 20-22**)? Note: Up to this point the man had only heard the voice of Jesus, he had never seen his face because he was blind.

6. In **verse 26**, the healed man had just testified to the miracle Jesus had performed in his life. The religious leaders were not impressed; the miracle had been done on the Sabbath Day. What was their focus (**vs. 26**)? What was the motivation behind their questioning?

7. As we come to **verse 27**, the healed man was beginning to get irritated. How did he respond to the religious leaders questioning? Was it out of respect? It is important to note that the man was not a disciple of Jesus as of this point. How does this fact make his response in **verse 27** all the more sarcastic?

8. In the minds of the Jews, what Jesus had done by healing the man born blind on the Sabbath was irreconcilable with the law of Moses. The fact is, Jesus did not violate the law, He violated their oral traditions. It is always lawful to do acts of mercy on the Sabbath Day, but the religious leaders would not hear of it. Why do we say at Shoreline that *"The Scriptures and the Scriptures alone are the authority for what we believe"*? Who needs to bend if our beliefs do not line up with Scripture?

9. When the religious leaders failed to shake the man's testimony, they began to attack him personally (**vs. 28**). Was the man a disciple of Jesus at this point? Why or why not? In pride, the religious leaders claimed they were disciples (or students) of Moses. What can we learn about law and grace from **2 Cor. 3:6**? Which of the two is far better? Why?

Part II: The healed man is excommunicated because he would not turn his back on Jesus (John 9:30-34)

1. In **verse 29** the authorities continued to attack Jesus. How did the man respond to their attacks in **verse 30**? In the healed man's eyes, the greatness of this miracle could only indicate that the miracle had come from God. Why should this miracle have caught the religious leader's eyes? (See **Isa. 29:18-19; 35:4-6; Mic. 5:2**) Why didn't they believe?
2. What logic did the healed man use against them in **verse 31**? How do you think the religious leaders reacted to this formerly blind beggar attacking their intelligence? The truth is, they looked at him as a nobody. Apart from the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we are all lost! Why do Christians say, "*the ground level at the foot of the cross?*"
3. Are there any examples of blind people miraculously being given their sight in the Old Testament? What truth was this man keenly aware of (**vv. 32 & 33**)? What extreme measure did the religious authorities take in **verse 34**? How important was synagogue life to the Jewish community? What is the meaning of excommunication? (See Dictionary) Note: This is the first report of a member of a Jewish synagogue being excommunicated because of their relationship with Christ. Have you ever had to suffer for your faith in Jesus Christ? If so, how? (See **John 15:18-21**)

Part III: Jesus found the excommunicated man and then opened his eyes spiritually leading him to salvation (John 9:35-41)

1. How did Jesus respond once He heard the man had been cast out of the synagogue (**vs. 35**)? Warren Wiersbe wrote, "*The Good Shepherd always cares for His sheep. Jesus knew that the man had been excommunicated, so He found him and revealed Himself to him. Remember, the man knew our Lord's voice, but he had never seen His face.*" What question did Jesus ask the man in **verse 35**?
2. What was the man's response in **verse 36**? When he called Jesus "*Lord*," did he mean, "*Sir*" or "*Lord of the Universe?*" In **verse 37**, Jesus finally identified Himself as "*the Son of God*" to this man (some translations say "*Son of Man*"). How did the man respond (**vs. 38**)? Notice that there is a progression in the man's belief throughout **chapter 9**. Can you identify the progression in **verses 11, 17, 35-38**?

3. It is important to note that Jesus received the man's worship here (**vs. 38**). In doing so, who was Jesus declaring Himself to be? How is the response of Jesus different from that of the angel in **Rev. 22:8-9**? What biblical truth do we learn in **John 10:27-30**?

4. Does **verse 39** contradict the teachings of **John 3:16-17**? Why or why not? How was the first advent of Christ different from what His Second Coming will be? (See **Rev. 19:11-16; 20:11-15**) There are only two kinds of people in the world, what are they? Jesus called for complete commitment, we are to take up our cross and follow Him. Why do so many "Christians" not take their walk with Christ seriously today? Should they be concerned?

5. What had offended the Pharisees so much in **verse 39 (vs. 40)**? Though they had physical sight, they were blinded spiritually. What did Jesus teach about these hypocrites in **Matt. 15:12-14**?

6. John MacArthur wrote, *"If they knew their lostness and darkness and cried out for spiritual light, they would no longer be guilty of the sin of unbelief in Christ. But satisfied that their darkness was light, and continuing in rejection of Christ, their sin remained."* What stinging words did Jesus issue to the religious authorities in **verse 40**? Where were they even saved?

7. Even worse than being blind, the unbelieving Jewish leaders were spiritually dead, walking zombies. That is exactly where all of us were until God did a miraculous work in our hearts. What incredible truth do we learn in **Ephesians 2:1-5**? What makes the words "But God" so special to each of us?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Jesus is the light of the world and used the healing the man born blind to demonstrate this.
- Many of the Jewish people were afraid of the consequences if they did not yield themselves to the religious authorities, so they backed down in fear.
- The healed man refused to be guided by fear and was excommunicated for not turning his back on Jesus like the religious authorities wanted him to do.
- There are only two kinds of people in the world, those who are saved (those who see spiritually) and those who are not (the spiritually blind).
- Jesus opened the blind man's physical eyes early in **chapter 9** and now He opens the man's spiritual eyes in the final verses.
- Jesus willingly received worship from the healed man, once again demonstrating His deity.
- Spiritually dead men do not see; sadly, the Jewish religious authorities were spiritually dead.