

Woodland Baptist Church  
 June 8, 2014 - Morning Worship  
 John 9:35-41, Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind, Part 4

1) READ JOHN 9

- a) Just to refresh our memories about where we are in the Gospel of John:
- i) Christ was becoming more and more controversial with his teachings.
- (1) Remember in John 8, Christ goes to Jerusalem during the feast of tabernacles and proclaims himself the following things:
- (a) *The light of the world* - "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- (b) *He is the embodiment of truth* - "If you abide in my word you are truly my disciples...you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."
- (c) *He tells them Abraham is not their father* - 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- (d) *He tells them he existed before Abraham* - 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.
- ii) Then the scene transitions and the disciples and Christ pass by a blind beggar, blind from birth; a discussion then happens between Christ and the disciples about why he was blind - was this his sin or his parent's sin that God was judging? He says neither - this man was blind so that the work of God could be shown....Christ makes mud with his spit and anoints the blind man's eyes and tells him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam - he does and comes back seeing.
- iii) Then we see the aftermath of the healing:
- (1) His neighbors notice the man sees and are confused and bewildered
- (2) They take him to the Pharisses - the pharisees are confused and bewildered.

- (3) The Pharisees call his parents to give account - they affirm that he is indeed their son.
  - (4) They call the blind man back and press him harder...the blind man out maneuvers them in a series of statements that confounds them to the point they get so mad - they "cast him out of the synagogue...and therefore out of the society of Israel."
- b) Instead of celebrating that a miracle had been done and embracing the blind beggar who had been brought out darkness into light...they are jealous and enraged because Sabbath laws had been broken...because Jesus, their enemy had healed a man and given him his sight and there was nothing they could do about it but try to prove the identify of the man had been falsified...which was not true...so after one final shot at him...after the blind man had made fools of them...they cast him out.

## 2) Verses 35-41 - The Blind man PROFESSES Christ and is SAVED

- a) **35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him [only place in John where this is said]. 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."**
- i) Let's notice a few things about this:
- (1) Jesus is SEEKING us! *"Having found him he said..."* Jesus wants to come to our aid when we have been hurt and encourage us; he is a comfort to us when we have taken a stand for him!
    - (a) **Matthew 4:11** - [after the temptation of Christ] - "The Devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him."
    - (b) **Luke 19:10** - 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
  - (2) Jesus is SPEAKING to us! *"Do you believe in the Son of Man"* Jesus has made certain that his words were recorded for us to read over and over and over again. When we read the words in the Bible...it is as though God is speaking to us today, right now, just like he did the blind beggar he had healed.

(a) **2 Timothy 3:16** - 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

(3) Jesus is REVEALING himself to us! - *“You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”* Jesus is still revealing himself to us today; obviously not in flesh...but he continues to reveal himself to us in nature, other believers, preachers, teachers, missionaries...circumstances.

(a) **2 Corinthians 4:6** - For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

(4) Jesus EXISTENCE calls for a reaction from us! Everyone at some point in their life must make a decision on what to do with Jesus. His very existence forces us to have to grapple with whether or not his claims were true.

(a) Jesus reveals just enough of himself to make faith possible, but hides just enough of himself to make faith necessary.

b) I want to be sure that you catch this - notice that Jesus heals the blind man and then vanishes from sight...he allows the blind man to go through these multi-level interrogations which ultimately result in him being expelled from the synagogue...Jesus could have been there...but he was not! Why? Because he wanted the blind man to go through the trial. When the trial ends and he is mistreated and thrown out...guess how comes to minister to him? Jesus

(1) Why? Why do we have to suffer for him? Because in our suffering somehow we learn more about who he is and through the suffering we learn if we are truly his. But the sad reality is that we avoid discomfort at all cost - we don't want to know anything about suffering for God...yet God has told us that suffering is where the heart of God is!

(a) If I don't believe this book and I don't believe that Jesus is who he said he is...I'm not going through any suffering. The apostles would have never gone through what they went through if they were not fully committed to him and did not fully believe him.

ii) **Philippians 3:10-11** - 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

(1) It wasn't enough for Paul to preach it, he had to live it. He wanted to live it so closely to the way Christ did, that he knew that somehow the suffering he experienced in some mysterious way drew him closer to Christ.

iii) The final few verses are for the Pharisees that shadow Jesus in everything he does - they always have a small number of them following Jesus around to report back to them what he is doing...in this case Christ uses the miracle he has just done with the blind man to make a clear distinction.

c) **39 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."**

i) In a couple of places we have heard Jesus say that he did not come to judge or condemn, so what does he mean by this statement? Is he contradicting himself? No, Jesus' ministry was very clear - he came to save us, not condemn us...but by nature of his mission and what he does...judgement is a by-product of his mission.

(a) It's like when you are talking to a married couple that you don't very well and the wife of one couple says, "my husband is so wonderful he does all our laundry, folds it and puts it away."

(b) The wife of the other couple glares at her husband and says, "my husband never touches the laundry," and he looks down in embarrassment.

(i) Did the wife of the one couple purposefully set out to bring judgement on the husband of the other? No, she was just stating a fact about her husband doing laundry, but it brought "judgment" on the other man because he did not do laundry.

(2) Jesus says that there are two types of people he will meet:

(a) Those who DO NOT see [spiritually] - they know they are spiritually blind, and will accept the truth of Christ...then their eyes will be opened - which is a parable/metaphor for salvation.

(b) Those who DO see [spiritually] - they are spiritually blind but do not know it - they think they can see spiritually but in reality are self deceived - in their case, they will reject Christ and go completely blind.

ii) **Parable of the Sower** - 10 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" 11 And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

d) My Presence, all by itself, and my ministry, almost unintentionally, seems to work 'judgment': dividing sheep from goats, blind from sighted. I seem to effect judgment - either for me or against me - by simply appearing on the scene. People divide themselves, and so are 'judged' by how they relate to me and to my work.

### 3) **Verses 40-41** Christ pronounces JUDGMENT on the PHARISEES

a) **40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.**

i) **Matthew 9:10-13** - 10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but **those who are sick**. 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

b) They wanted to make sure that Jesus was not accusing them of spiritual blindness, since they considered themselves the most enlightened among the Jews.<sup>1</sup>

c) Jesus just tells them the truth - you don't think you're sick; you've done nothing wrong, you understand perfectly everything about the Scriptures; you see clearly...but in truth, you are blind!

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<sup>1</sup> Constable

- (1) However, they did not sense their need, but felt quite satisfied that they understood God's will correctly. Consequently they did not receive the light that Jesus offered. They were wise in their own eyes, but really they were fools (Prov. 26:12). Their "sin" of unbelief remained with them, and they remained in their sin and under God's condemning wrath (3:36). Light causes some eyes to see, but it blinds other eyes. Jesus' revelations had the same effects.<sup>2</sup>
- ii) The deceitfulness of sin often makes those people, who are in the greatest need of divine revelation and illumination, think that they are the most enlightened of human beings. Only the Spirit of God, using the Word of God, can break through that dense darkness, to bring conviction of spiritual blindness, and to create openness to the truth (cf. 1 Cor. 2:6-16).<sup>3</sup>
- 4) CLOSE

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<sup>2</sup> Constable

<sup>3</sup> Constable