

## Do You Have Blindness or Sight?

John 9:8-41

February 19, 2023

### 1. The Blind Man and the Neighbors (8-12)

- a. When the beggar returned seeing, his neighbors and acquaintances cannot believe their eyes (8-9).
  - i. He is so changed that they have a hard time believing that it's the same person (8).
  - ii. As they argued amongst themselves, the beggar answers in the affirmative, "I am he" (9).
- b. His neighbors demand to know how his eyes were opened (10-12).
  - i. The beggar responds that it was "a man that is called Jesus" (11).
    1. His title for Jesus suggests that he knows very little of Jesus.
    2. This man does not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus.
  - ii. The beggar describes the healing process (11b).
    1. Jesus made mud.
    2. Jesus touched my eyes.
    3. Jesus said "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash."
    4. I went and after washing, I received my sight.
  - iii. His neighbors immediately want to know where Jesus is (12).
    1. The beggar knows the identity of his healer, but he doesn't know his whereabouts.
    2. His neighbors immediately lead him to the Pharisees.

### 2. The Blind Man and the Jewish Authorities (13-17)

- a. Rather than rejoice in this miracle, the neighbors can only see that the Sabbath has been broken, so they lead the beggar before the Pharisees (13-14).
  - i. In their minds, Jesus has broken the Sabbath by making mud, applying it to the blind man's eyes, and performing a miracle (cf. 5:1-18).
  - ii. The beggar is guilty by association.
- b. The Pharisees immediately begin to question him (15-17).
  - i. The Pharisees want to know how he received his sight (15).
  - ii. The Pharisees respond to his testimony with arguments among themselves (16).
    1. Some accuse Jesus of not being from God because He didn't keep the Sabbath.
    2. Others realize the miraculous nature of the sign would seem to indicate otherwise.
  - iii. The Pharisees come back to the beggar to get his opinion of Jesus's origin (17).
    1. Their question was almost certainly intended to intimidate the man into agreement with them that Jesus was not from God.
    2. The man's response is immediate, "He is a Prophet!"

### 3. The Blind Man's Parents and the Jewish Authorities (18-23)

- a. The Pharisees, the Jewish Authorities, refuse to believe the man's witness, so they call his parents (18-19).
  - i. The Jewish Authorities had great power; they summoned the man's parents, and they came immediately (18).
  - ii. Their questioning is meant to embarrass them and punish them on account of their son (19).
- b. His parents are obviously terrified of the Jewish Authorities, and they do everything they can to deflect any scrutiny from themselves to their son (20-23).
  - i. In testifying that he is their son and that he was born blind, his parents confirm that a miracle has been performed (20).
  - ii. In their second statement, they separate themselves from their son and confirm that he is a competent witness (21).
  - iii. The reason they distanced themselves was because the Jews would excommunicate anyone who confessed that Jesus was the Messiah (22-23).
    1. The Jews hated Jesus and anyone who associated themselves with Him (cf. 3:19-20).
    2. 15:18 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

### 4. The Blind Man and the Jewish Authorities Part 2 (24-34)

- a. The Jewish Authorities demand that the man agree with them (24-25).
  - i. "Give God the praise" is equivalent to saying, "Do you solemnly swear?"
  - ii. The "knowledge" they confess reveals their animosity and complete disbelief in Jesus, "This man is a sinner" (24b).
  - iii. The man replies with a confession of his own (25).

1. "Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not"
  2. "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see!"
- b. The Jewish Authorities demand that he tell them how the miracle was performed (26-27).
- i. This is likely to bait him into a description of how Jesus healed him.
  - ii. They were likely hoping that he would retell how Jesus applied the mud to his eyes in supposed violation of the Sabbath.
  - iii. The man mocks their repeated questioning (27).
    1. He rebukes them for not listening.
    2. He mocks their motivation for the questioning, and in doing so implies that he is beginning to see himself as a disciple of Jesus.
- c. The Jewish Authorities immediately separate themselves from Jesus (28-34).
- i. They identify themselves as disciples of Moses (28-29).
    1. In confessing that they are disciples of Moses, they confess their ignorance of Moses's teachings (cf. 5:45-46).
    2. They are revealing that they are the ones who are truly blind, blind to their condition, and blind to the solution to their blindness.
  - ii. The man born blind calls out their unbelief (30-33).
    1. The miracle should be proof of Jesus's origin (30).
    2. Since God hears those who do His will, Jesus's miracle is obvious proof that He is not a sinner (31)
    3. Since the miracle had never been done before, that should be proof enough that Jesus has divine power (32-33).
- d. The Jewish Authorities declare their verdict and excommunicate the man (34).
- i. They discredit the man's testimony on the grounds that he was born blind, which they believed was proof that he was completely sinful rendering his testimony invalid.
  - ii. They then cast him out, excommunicating as a heretic and a social-religious outcast.
5. The Blind Man and Jesus (35-41)
- a. Jesus seeks out the man (35-38)
- i. Jesus hears about him (35a).
  - ii. Jesus finds him (35b).
  - iii. Jesus pursues him (35c).
    1. Do you believe in the Son of Man?
    2. The title, Son of Man, is Jesus's claim to be the Son of God.
    3. Daniel 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."
  - iv. Jesus answers his request for understanding (36-37).
- b. The man responds in faith (38).
- i. He confessed his faith in Jesus, as the Son of Man, not just the Healer of his eyes, but the Healer of his soul.
  - ii. He worshiped Jesus as his Lord and God.
6. The Judgment of Jesus (39-41)
- a. Jesus has come into the world to judge those who think that they see but are actually blind (39).
- i. Religion promises mankind that they can be as gods (Genesis 3:4-5).
  - ii. "The foundational irony of the gospel is not that God became human but that humanity thought they had become God" (Edward W. Klink III, Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament).
  - iii. Jesus alone is the "light of life" (8:12).
- b. The Pharisees expose their blindness (40-41).
- i. Since they have to ask whether or not they are blind, exposes the fact that they indeed are blind.
  - ii. Since they refused to admit their spiritual blindness, they remained bound by their sins (41).
  - iii. Proverbs 26:12 "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him."
  - iv. Before someone can be healed, they first must be willing to admit that they've been blind from birth.