

I WAS BLIND, NOW I SEE

By Margretha Esprey
Christian Centre Abbotsford

11 June 2023

Key verses: [John 9](#)

JOHN 9

If I asked you, "Are you absolutely sure, 100% certain, that God loves you, not just the whole world, but you personally," what would your answer be?

The reason I'm asking is just in case there is somebody here who may be thinking that he/she has committed too many sins for Jesus to be willing to do anything for you, or maybe someone else may feel that he is too insignificant, just not important enough to receive something special from the Lord this morning. If your sin situation is your concern, then I want to remind you of the woman caught in adultery. This, very serious sin, required her to be stoned. Jesus, however, forgave her, sent her off with the command to stop sinning. He is still the forgiving God to those who come to Him. The chapter that we are studying this morning, John 9, will very clearly address the concern of your significance to Christ. It will give us a close-up glimpse of His love and help us to see that nobody is too insignificant.

PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Let's turn to John 9. It is a long chapter, but we'll read and talk our way through it. This chapter addresses spiritual blindness, physical blindness, worshiping and witnessing.

Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles and once again the Pharisees were desperate to get rid of Him. They went so far as to pick up stones to kill Him, but **it was not Jesus' time. The Word says that He hid Himself and went** out of the temple. Despite this fierce opposition, He did not miss any opportunity of doing good among them. This is still His heart and His attitude. He is greatly desiring to do good here in our midst today. May God grant that this same attitude will be ours too. He saw this poor beggar and His heart was stirred with compassion. Others saw the blind man and spat at him as their culture was in those days.

Verses 1-3: *Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.*

And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."

In their culture blindness from birth was seen as the result of sin that had been committed in the **mother's womb before** birth, sin committed by the parents, or a curse inherited from the past. Jesus, however, said that this was to reveal the work of God. God did not inflict the blindness on the man so that He could later heal him. This is not how God works. Rather, God takes what has happened & turns it into good.

We must remember that we live in a world where sin, sickness & death came about because of Adam & Eve sinning.

God always has a purpose, it may be that a dramatic healing will take place, or if healing doesn't take place immediately, the way the sufferer handles the pain and sickness, trusting and remaining true, worshiping despite it, will honour and glorify God. God has a plan, and it is a plan which will bring Him honour.

Verses 5-7. *"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world".*

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and then He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

And He said to him, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam", (which is translated Sent). So, he went and washed, and came back seeing.

The neighbours, people who knew him, were amazed, hardly recognizing him as the blind beggar. If Jesus was willing to stop for someone regarded with disgust, a man who knew nothing about Jesus, who had not even called out to Jesus, can there be any reason why He will not stop for you this morning?

The people around there wanted to know from the man how this wonderful thing had happened to him.

Verse 11. *He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."*

The way in which the healing took place, can be seen as rather humbling, but the blind man was willing to obey. He just yielded himself to whatever Jesus said and obeyed. The question comes to each one of us, **"Are you willing to submit to whatever Jesus may say or do to you?"** If you submit to Him, He will heal all blindness, be it spiritual or a physical issue.

The people wanted to know where this Healer was, but the healed man didn't know.

PHARISEES

Now the Pharisees come on the scene. One would have thought that this amazing miracle would silence any opposition, but the Jews were always looking for some reason to accuse and charge Jesus. Answering their question about what had happened, he told exactly what had **taken place. "He put clay on my eyes, I washed, and I see."** They seemed to ignore this and concentrated more on the fact that Jesus had put mud on the eyes of the blind man on the Sabbath!! **Some of them said, "This Man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath."** Others said, **"How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?"** And there was a division among them.

Verse 17. *They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."*

It is interesting to note that this man who had known nothing about Jesus, although still not knowing that Jesus was the Messiah, sensed that He was a prophet. A little bit of the sight that had come to his physical eyes, was coming to his spiritual sight also.

The Pharisees had a problem because there were those who were so impressed with this wonderful healing that they were on the verge of believing, so if only they could prove it all false. They called for his parents and they, knowing very well that the pharisees had decided that anyone who confessed Jesus as Christ would be cast out of the synagogue, referred them to their son. They were not prepared to accept any responsibility. So, not getting anywhere with them, the Pharisees went back to the son.

Verse 24-27. *So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this man is a sinner."*

He answered and said, "Whether he is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

WORSHIPING & WITNESSING

Wow, this was brave! It appears he was becoming irritated with these Jews who seemed so stupid! Why did they not listen and understand? He was willing to tell his story and stand by it.

Verses 28, 29. *"Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.*

*We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is **from**."*

The man's spiritual sight was developing further as we see in his response in verses 30 & 31, *"Why this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him"* and so he continues by saying in verse 33, *"If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."* His knowledge is not yet perfect, for e.g., God does hear sinners when they call on Jesus for mercy, but despite this, he gives good reasons for his trust in Jesus. His spiritual healing is increasing and his understanding of the things of God is growing.

They were so angry that this insignificant chap would try and teach them, they cast him out of the synagogue! What the Jewish leaders did is the very thing that Jesus promises never to do.

John 6:37 *"One who comes to Me I will not cast out."*

This controversy exposed hearts. The man who had been blind started understanding more and more who Jesus was and became stronger and stronger in his courage in defending Jesus against dangerous adversaries. We see a courageous confession of faith and worship.

Despite all the evidence the religious leaders refused to believe what was before them. Spiritually they were totally blind.

Not one of us can be neutral about Jesus, we are compelled to decide one way or another.

Jesus was certainly not going to leave this man alone in this outcast situation. He went looking for him and found him, asking whether he believed in the Son of God. He was so ready to believe and just wanted to know who this was so that he could believe in Him.

Verses 37, 38. *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.

We don't ever read about this man again, but what a wonderful story, what an experience! Not only did he receive physical healing, but also spiritual healing. Jesus came to restore both.

YOUR STORY

What is your story? Everyone has a unique & personal story. It is a story of how God took hold of you, of your heart, your life. When you look back on your life, do you see how the Lord has been planning and working? Jesus used a strange way with this blind man, a man who had

been physically and spiritually blind. He could just have spoken one word and he would have been healed, but Jesus wanted more for him.

Jesus thought you special enough to die for you and to come and dwell in you by the Holy Spirit. You are special enough for Him to do amazing things in and for you. Today He is ready to shine His light right into your heart and cause your eyes to be opened to see Him calling you to commit your life to Him. Today He is ready to touch you, to heal whatever is necessary in your body. Will you accept that you are special enough, that He will do it for you? Even right here, this morning?

I have another question for you. If He touches you today, if you commit your life to Jesus and you are born again today, or if something in your body is healed today, will you respond with worship and telling your story as this blind man did? He just told the facts. Just as it happened – nothing complicated, just honest. Will you do that even if you should lose some friends as a result?

In the book of Acts we find that Paul, at that stage called Saul, experienced healing of his physical and his spiritual sight as he travelled on the Damascus road. Paul spent the rest of his life telling others what had happened and how they could also experience it.

I remember when I was a little girl a favourite chorus in our home was, “Stop and let me tell you, what the good Lord has done for me x2. He healed my body, and He saved my soul. He baptized me and He made me whole, oh, stop and let me tell you, what the good Lord has done for me.”

Jesus performed many physical miracles while on earth and He is still in the healing business. There are people here, today who can share stories of how God in His goodness touched their bodies, Lester is going to share some, and I saw many in other countries where I ministered. In Mozambique I travelled as a member of the ministry team of Randy Clark. One evening way out in the bush, we showed the Jesus film and while Randy and an interpreter were speaking from the back of the truck that we were travelling in, the ministry team moved amongst the people, praying for the sick. We had a language problem of course, but people would point to the part of their bodies where the problem was. One of the ones I prayed for had a problem with her eyes. She had a baby on her back and could hardly see where she was going. One of the local pastors explained the problem to me. I prayed for her and had such a strong feeling that God was doing something and then unfortunately the call came that we all had to get back on the truck. It would have been foolishness to disobey, but I was so sorry to leave this lady. That night, in the little tent where a few of us women were sleeping, I prayed, telling God that I would so much have liked to see what He was doing in this woman. Lo and behold, the next morning as we were gathered round a fire, enjoying coffee and buns, I felt a hand touch my back. I turned around and there was the previous **night's** lady, bright, eyes sparkling and smiling from ear to ear. She had come to look for me to tell me that she could see clearly. I discovered that her name was Matilda.

I think I told a few stories when I ministered here a few weeks ago and I may have told you about the lady in Kampala in Uganda who had been born deaf and dumb and heard for the first time and had to learn some language. God simply touched her during worship. In Eldoret in Kenya I met up with a young man who eight years earlier had committed his life to Christ during an outdoor meeting the first time I ministered there, three years later his father had brought him to a youth conference where I was asked to pray for his eyesight as he was battling to see and thus his studies at school suffered and now he came to report that he was doing well at university – his eyes completely healed. God still does these things.

Maybe today is your day! Will you trust the Lord for great things?