

Title: Once I was Blind, But Now I See!

Text: John 9:24-41

The Gospel of John chapter 9. John chapter 9 beginning at Vs 24. This is a tremendous story of the healing of the blind man. Let's pick it up where we left of last week. John chapter 9 verse 24.

(Read 9:24-41)

Let's pray

(3) After study the feelings of several groups. Namely his neighbors and the Pharissess and even his own parants over this miracle, we are now coming to the sections of this chapter dealing with the problem they had in accepting the miracle itself. And we see this in several ways.

(1) The first of which is the condemnation of his character. Vs 24 and 25

This of course refers to the religious leaders. Condemning his character. And I would like you to notice two things here.

(1) First of all the actuzation they made was based on his healing on the Sabbath. They said in Vs 24 to the man who was born blind, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner."

Now, they are basing that statement on the fact that according to them Jesus violated the Sabbath by healing this man who was born blind. He did heal him on the Sabbath as we learned in Vs 14. He also had headed the lame man back in chapèer 5 on the Sabbath day,

A little bit later he ends up with his disciples eating corn on the Sabbath day. And they bring up that issue, a~~s~~so.

So, there charge was based on a violation of healing on the Sabbath. And that is why they called him a sinner. And because he did that, obvjous God couldn't ^{he} blessing his life. And therefore, they concluded that God didn't really heal the man. Either it was a made up story, or, the man wasn't really blind. So, they were making this charge against Jesus.

(2) The second thing that I want you to notice, here, as they condemn his character is the effect this had upon the blind man.

Don't worry about what people say against Jesus because often it turns and has a good cause. God takes even the things that men say that are bad and the things they do which seem evil, and he takes them and turns them around so that it praises his name.

Back in Genesis 50 verse 20, Joseph said about his brothers that they meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. God turned the circumstances around and used it for his glory.

And here is another example. Jesus is being accused and attacked and condemned in terms of his character. But notice the effect on this blind man.

Vs 25, this healed blind man said, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; but one thing I do know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."

That is tremendous. Notice, he faith is not all that it should be at this point. It is going to be before we leave this chapter, But it has been growing. He first of all said that there was a man, Jesus, who healed me. Next, he declares that he is prophet. Now, he is saying, "I don't know whether he is a sinner or not. But, I will tell you one thing, whereas I was blind, now I see." I can see. I know that I was healed.

And that is the experience of many Christians. They might not understand all the deep points of theology, but one thing they knew. They have been saved

I taught a class at Taft College on the O.T. and the N.T. And I shall never forget one student right at the beginning of the Semester right after class coming to me and saying: "I don't quite understand all that you said. But, this I know. I have been saved."

I said, "Praise the Lord. That is great". Oh, he might not have understood all that I was talking about. But he knew one thing. He had been saved by the power of God/... He was a brand new Christian. And that was exciting. He loved the Lord.

Same way with this blind man. I don't know what you are talking about. But I know one thing. I have been healed. I was blind and now I see.

() We also notice the problem they had in accepting this miracle as we see it the concern they had over the details. What a sad thing here in Vs 26-27

There questions are WHAT AND HOW? Nothing to do with WHO? This is amazing. They say in Vs 26, "What did He do to you?"

He has already told them. "How did He open your eyes?" He has already told them. They knew. They had already heard.

And then of course he makes this great statement. Vs 27 "I told you already, and you did not listen, why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?"

I tell you, that healed blind man was learning how to be a soul winner... WOW!! He really was.....It is great.... It is even better in a literal translation...Here is what it literally says, "YOU DON'T ALSO WISH TO BECOME HIS DISCIPLES, DO YOU?"

You see, that is a statement of probability. The answer would be.. MAYBE....Yes, maybe I would. He was really putting them on the spote.

() And then the third way that we see ^{their} problem in ~~the~~ accepting this miracle is in their comparison to Moses. Here is a little cop-out. You know, people do this all the time. I discovered this by teaching on a collage campass. Students who are confronted with the gospel can ask the dumbest question..There was this student in my class and all throughout the first hour he keep asking me far out questions. At the break, I took him aside and ask him, "Do you want to ask me about Jesus?" And he said YES...

It is funny how people are. They really want to ask you about Jesus, but they are afraid to confront the issue. So, they ask you around about questions.

Now, sometimes they want you to get off the issue because they are convicted in their heart. Other times they are just waiting for you to expose thier front so that they can really find out what the truth is. These men just wanted him to get off the subject. They tried to change the subject. Changed the subject by making a comparison to Moses...

(1) So, first of all, notice the attack that they were now using. There are several things important here.

(1)First of all, involved in this attack is a contrast between Moses and Jesu They is the first appraoch in their attack. They contrasted Moses with Jesus.

Vs 28 says "And they reviled him, and said, 'You are His disciple; but we are disciples of Moses.'" "We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where He is from."

Now, I believe they brought up Moses for a specific reason in the context. Look back at Vs 17. When they had said unto the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And He said, "HE IS A PROPHET."

Now, it was Moses that spoke of the Prophet that should come. (Deut 18) Moses is treated as a prophet. So, they brought up what they thought was the great prophet. And they are asking him to compare Jesus with Moses.

Now, they didn't do this in a kind way. Vs 28 says "they reviled him." That word "revil" has the idea of abuse. Whether they swore at him or not, I don't know, But they poured abuse on him by this statement. So, I believe that not all the abuse is recorded. Just a simple statement that they reviled him.

And this is interesting to remember. The Christian when he is reviled because of his faith in Christ, faces a lot of attacks, but he doesn't face anything that Jesus didn't face himself.

I would like you to turn in your Bibles to I Peter chapter 2. I Peter chapter 2 where we see another useage of this word "reviling". I Peter 2:23.. And this is real encouragement for every believer who faces the abuse and attacks of others in the world, for his faith in Christ.

I Peter 2:23...The testimony of our Lord Jesus when he said that we would also walk in his steps. Well, here are some of his steps. Vs 23.... "and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously:"

And that is very important in your witness. Don't ever bring abuse upon the people who are bringing abuse upon you.

Our Lord Jesus, even though they frankly abused him, never returned it. You know, you don't have to defend yourself. The Bible says, "Vengeous is mine. I will repay saith the Lord."

And we spend too much time defending ourselves. Trying to explain why something happened that happened. Listen, you leave that with the Lord.

You don't have to defend yourself. Stand up for the truth. Speak boldly in the power of the Holy Spirit. And don't worry about the abuse. Don't worry about what people say against you. Or, about you. Let the Lord handle that. Commit yourself to him who judges righteously. Just like Jesus did/ God will take care of that. Don't worry about it. Tremendous example here in the Gospel of John.

Now, turn over to chapter 3 verse 9. It should be the same page if you have the right Bible. (ha) Chapter 3 verse 9....

Vs 8 says.....(Read Vs 8-9)

Now, those verses are exciting because the way we learn handle insults is by being a blessing when we are reviled. When people insult us pour a blessing upon them.

And that goes along with what Romans 12:17-21 says. Paul tells us not to be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

You can heap coals of fire upon their heads by refusing to attack them as they have attacked you.

One more in I Corinthians chapter 4. The testimony of the Apostle Paul, here, is really great. I Cor 4 verse 12. Here he is recounting our ministry as believers and how he was a fool for Christ's sake. And how they had ~~suffered~~ suffered hunger and thirst. And they had no dwelling place. And then Vs 12 says "and we toil" The word "toil" means to the point of exhausted. "working with our own hands; when we are reviled (there is our word again), WE BLESS: When we are persecuted, we endure."

Now, why did He endure all of this?...WHY?....Over in 2 Corinthians chapter 6 we learn the reason. AND THAT IS: TO BRING GLORY TO CHRIST. You will find that same thing in 2 Corinthians chapter 12. That in spite of all the affirmations, abuses and personal attacks that He took, he learned one thing: then Christ would be glorified. The power of Christ would then be seen on his life. That is a tremendous principle.

And you see, that is the same thing we see in this blind man's life. They are reviling him and abusing him and persecuting him. But what is happening? He is getting stronger....

His faith is growing. And the consequences are going to be severe. Not only do they abuse him, but they take a definite action, here, that will separate him from the Jewish community.

O.K. back to John 9. We noticed in their comparison to Moses; First of all the attacked they used was: Number one, by contrasting him with Moses. (2) Now, secondly, they do it by comparing him with Moses. Because they mention that Moses spoke from God. So, the question is, Let's compare him, now,. We don't know where he comes from.

And it is tremendous to realize that this man who is facing this verbal attack, he doesn't know either. But, he knows one thing. That he has been healed. And that really amazes me in this passage. He didn't know. But he takes what they said. And he is going to deal with it.

But in Vs 29 they clearly compared him with Moses. "We know that God has spoken to Moses; but where did this guy come from."

The obvious point is that God ^{is} speaking through him. So, why do you believe what he says.

Now, actually he never really told them that he believes what Jesus said ~~to~~ to him. He had never said that he believed the teaching of Jesus. That he was the Messiah. In fact, the passage clearly shows that he had not come ~~that~~ to that opinion yet. And if you look back to Vs 22 you know why they were so upset because they had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus as the Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

He has not yet confessed that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. Not yet. But they are acting as if he has ~~really~~ already done so. Because he is going around saying that he was healed. Well, the more that they pressure him, the more he is coming to believe in Jesus. It is really growing in his life. And he is realizing that maybe Jesus really is the Messiah.

(2) Now, the next little argument you have to follow carefully. That is number two, The answer he gave. Verses 30 to 34. Four ^{things} ~~things~~, here, that I want you to see.

(1) Vs 30, "The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes."

The little word "yet" means that there are two things that are so obvious that he is amazed that they are wondering about this healing. Two things. One, you obviously don't know where he has come from. But, what difference does that make. He healed me. Two .. he obviously opened my eyes because I can see you. Now, why are you so shook up about? Why are you so willing to attack and condemn? Why?

Well, he knew what they were getting at. That is..that if Jesus were a sinner, and they argued that because Jesus broke the Sabbath, then obviously God wouldn't be blessing in his life.

So, taking off from that point, this man gives his answer.

Now, there is one little thing that you should know. Vs 31 says , "We know that God does not hear sinners:"

Now, is that true or false?.....That is false. God does hear sinners. But you see, they were arguing that. So, he took their position. He took their argument.

But, it is not true that God does not hear sinners. He hears sinners and he answers their prayers. The Bible is full of examples.

But, you see, their argument was. How Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Therefore he is a sinner and God couldn't possibly have listened to his prayer. That is not true. Even if he was a sinner, God could listen to his prayers.

Sometimes a sinner might be praying the prayer of salvation and God listens to that prayer. Let me tell you..."God be merciful to me a sinner"... says the Bible. And God hears that prayer. Oh, God, answers the prayer of sinners. The Bible says so.

But, you see, they were arguing that. And he took their argument and developed it. You have to hand it to this little fellow. He didn't have much learning. He didn't know much except that God had healed him. Frankly, he was pretty smart. Watch the way he develops this.

(1) The first thing that I want you to see as part of his answer is ~~that he~~ deals with the cause of their reaction... Why they are feeling the way they are

That he
is

That is the first part of his answer. He deals with their feelings. The second part of his answer is..he draws a conclusion. He makes a conclusion about this. Vs 31..."We know that God does not hear sinners;"...That is what you say. I will go along with that. "But if any one is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that any one opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."

You see, how he turns their argument against them. They said that only God could heal. Well, Jesus healed. This man is standing before them healed. So, the conclusion that this man comes to...Hay! Jesus must be of God... Or, he could not have healed me according to your view of God. Because I am healed.

And the thing that is happening is that this man's faith is growing. First, he called Jesus just a man. Then, he said that he was a prophet. Now, he is saying that Jesus is of God. Boy, he is really growing. We are going to get this fellow salved before too long. He is really coming to understand what this is all about.

Jesus must be someone greater than I first thought. Vs 31 and 32 is quite a statement.

(3) Now, the third thing in his answer...Notice the contrast that they then made after he gave his little speech.

Vs 34.."They answered and said to him. "You were born entirely in sin, and you are teaching us."

Boy, what a cop-out...The contrast they made. "You were born in sin." Now, that gets you back to the whole point of the story. Because you will remember that the disciples ask Jesus at the beginning "who sinned? This man or his parents?" That was the commonly held opinion as to why those blind beggars were blind.

Oh, those poor blind people. They have sinned and that is why they are blind. And so, the Pharisees would walk down the street and say, "I am more righteous than these men who are blind."

And now an attack comes. Now, they know that they can not get at this fellow the way they had been trying. So, now they contrast his morality with there's. You were born in sin. Well, so were they. All people are born in sin, you see. They ignored that fact. You see, the religious leaders of that day denied something the O.T. taught. And that is original sin. That folks are born in sin. And that is the whole point of this story. We know that the punch line of this story is spiritual ~~not~~ just physical. It was a real physical healing. But, the punch line is spiritual healing for spiritual blindness. And we will see that in a moment in another way.

So, these men are saying. "We are not born in sin. We are not like you. You were born blind." Yet, they are giving evidence by their actions that they are spiritually blind. And we will see that in the answer Jesus gives in the last few verses of this chapter.

(4) The fourth thing that I want you to notice is the conviction they felt.

vs 34, they said, "are you teaching us?" Now, why did they say that? You know why. He was teaching them. Sure he was.

Here they are. Teachers of the law. And he is teaching them.

The point that I think is funny is that He was. So, why were they upset? They were convicted by the simple teaching of a blind man. Taking what they had said and drawing a conclusion from it. Therefore, he has to be from God based upon your own teaching. And now they are saying, DO YOU TEACH US? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? And I think it is sort of funny.

He was teaching them. You see, according to the law a person who wasn't trained in the law could not teach the law. Now, that is sort of far out. But, the belief was that if you didn't have rabbinical teaching you couldn't teach. But, they are actually saying that he was teaching them. By the fact of their statement "ARE YOU TEACHING US?"

Boy, they must have felt really conviction to say that. They knew they were trapped. So, what did they do? They did what every body does when they don't want to respond to the truth.

(4) The fourth way that we see their problem in accepting the miracle is in their casting out of the blind man. *Excommunication*

Vs 34.. "And they put him out." That doesn't mean that they just put him out of church for one day. It means that he was excumunicated from the common life of the Jew in terms of buying and selling. If he went down to the market place to buy food, he would have to find an Araby to buy from. He is not going to buy from those Jews. He was kidded out of the Synogogue. He was put out of the Theolcricy of Israel. He is now in a real bad way, from the stand point of his own personal needs.

From the stand point of social relationships, he is now cut off. They have thrown him out.

By the way, in extra Biblical material about Jewish teaching, excumunicatinn is listed as second only to death in terms of consequences that a man can experience. Think of that. Jewush teaching. Second only to death. You might as well kill him. Because that is what it is. It is a death. Second only to death in terms of consequences that a man could experience in his life....Excumunication.

() In light of that, isn't Vs 35 wonderful? And this brings us to the power of this miracle. "Jesus head thatthey had put him out; and finding him." That is wonderful. Jesus went looking for him.

You know, you are never cast out with Jesus. John 6:37 says.."the one who comes to me I will certainly not cast out."

Does that verse have more meaning to you now that you know the circumstance? UH...The one who comes to Jesus will never be cast out. Never put out of the fold. Jesus found him. He loved him. And he loves you also. And he will find you. He is after you. Did you know that?f

The Bible says in Luke 19:10 that the son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. He is looking for you.

As one fellow once said. "Don't tell him where I am."He didn't want anything to do with Jesus. Meaningg he was convicted already.

Friends, you can't hide from God. No matter where you go. Jesus is looking you. The Bible says "all day long with out streched hands he is waiting for you to come to him. That is how much he loves you. Ths is a tremendous verse of love. Jesus found him.

Here he is. Cast out. Lonely. He must have been discouraged. He still doesn't know Jesus. And from the stand point of the Gospel you could say that he wasn't even saved yet...

The poor fellow is out here. He is lost. He has been cut off from the theocracy of Israel. He has been excumunicated. And he is wondering what he is going to do. And then Jesus shows up. It is beautiful.

(1) First of all, notice the power of this miracle on the blind man. Just four things here.

(1) Number one, the direction of Christ's miracles. What did Jesus want to accomplish through his miracles? Well, to make people believe. He said, vs 35.."Do you believe in the Son of God?"

To make men believe. That is the purpose.

(2) Then secondly, notice his desire to know. In Vs 36, he answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

Listen, if you would only get yourself into that place ~~it~~ would be amazed at what God would do. Come to that place and say, "WHO IS HE? JUST SHOW ME HIS CLAIMS? I WANT TO BELIEVE."

You see, Jesus said that he who was willing to do his will, will know what of the teaching, whether I speak of myself or of God."

If you really want to know, you will find out.

(3) Then third, notice the disination of the one who healed him. This is a beautiful thing. Vs 37.."Jesus said to him, 'You have seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.'"

Fantastice!!!!!!!!!!

(4) And fourth, notice his decision ..Vs 38..'LORD, I BELIEVE".... No hesitation...No debating...LORD I BELIEVE....

And then he did what ever believer ought to do. He worshipped him.... Jesus is the great God incarnated in human flesh. He deserves our worship and our praise.

() O.K. What is the meaning of those last three verses. This is the power of the miracle on the Pharises. Just two things here.

Vs 39 "And Jesus said, 'For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may become blind.'"

(1) Then in Vs 40 we notice the first thing. And that is the concern of the Pharisees over his comments. Because they knew what the point was going to be. It was towards them. And they said, "We are not blind too, are we?"

They knew what he was getting at....And their question indicates doubt. They had some questions. WE ARE NOT BLIND TOO, ARE WE?

(2) This leads us to the second point. Vs 41, the conclusion that Jesus gave them ..."Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see; your sin remains.'"

The point....Here is where we learn the lesson of the blind man. What it is all about.

There ^{is healing} ~~is healing~~ for the blind. Those who recognize their condition. I am lost. I am blind. I am in sin. I need help. THOSE PEOPLE WILL SEE.

But the hardest things for a person to see, quote...his ^{is} ~~is~~ true condition before God....That we are blind...that we are lost...that we are in need of a saviour....Until you recognize that you will never come to believe in Christ. You will not see your need of him,.. You will be adding him to your life like a little ~~chutch~~ chutch. In order to have a little peace or love or joy that you might not have now. Or, to have more fun in life. Or, to have friends.

Listen, those are not reasons. The reason to come to Jesus is because we are lost and we are blind and we are in sin and we are facing the consequences. And once you realize that. That you cannot save yourself. At that moment there is hope for you. There is healing then for the blind.

And those who say, "WE SEE".. We are not in a condition born blind. We are not born in sin. You say you see. Jesus saidn,, "I will tell you one thing. If you see, you are still remaining in your sin. If that is the way you see, if you don't understand that you are blind, and you say that you see, that you have no need of a saviour, THEN YOU SIN STILL REMAINS AND YOU ARE LOST.

Now, I wonder where you stand....

Lost close in prayer.....