

## EXPOSITION OF JOHN

Message #42

John 9:1-41

I read of a Sunday school teacher, who was challenged by his pastor to witness. This man was somewhat unlearned in his education and in his evangelistic tactics. In the church was a brilliant attorney, who was not a believer. One evening the unlearned man slid into the seat next to the attorney and he asked the attorney this question - "Do you want to go to heaven when you die?" The attorney said, "I am not sure." So the Sunday school teacher said - "Fine, then go to hell." Eventually, that attorney could not shake that conversation and he trusted Christ and eventually thanked the man for witnessing to him.

Make absolutely no mistake about this point - unless a person believes on Jesus Christ he/she will go to hell. There is absolutely no doubt and no debate about this theme. There must be some point in time when you acknowledge to God that you believe only in His God/Son to save you from your sins. You either place all of your faith in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins or you die in your sins. A person may be good, kind, nice, moral, but he is still a sinner and still needs a Savior.

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, He hammered home this theme time and time again. He did spectacular things to prove His message is true and John 9 is one of those spectacular and miraculous things. The main point of John 9 is this:

**JESUS CHRIST MIRACULOUSLY MADE A BLIND MAN SEE TO ESTABLISH THAT HE IS THE ONLY GOD/SAVIOR AND THAT HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THE POWER TO GIVE SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LIGHT TO THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE ON HIM.**

John Phillips observed in chapters 1-4 Christ's deity is declared and in chapters 5-10 Christ's deity is disputed. Keep our context in mind, the Jews actually picked up stones and wanted Jesus Christ dead (**John 8:59**). That does not stop Him for one second. Now we may break this chapter down under three main headings:

**HEADING #1** – The miracle performed by Jesus Christ. **9:1-7**

Jesus was still in Jerusalem on the Sabbath Day (**9:14**). He was obviously walking in the city, somewhere outside the temple (**8:59**) and He saw a blind man, who had been blind from birth. When His disciples saw him, they asked Him who had sinned (**9:2**) so that he was born blind - him or his parents?

This idea was rooted in the O.T. law and in the Pharisees interpretation of the law (**Exodus 20:5; 34:7**). Christ and His disciples are by this blind man and His disciples are somewhat rude. This blind man may not be able to see, but he certainly could hear.

Jesus said in **verse 3** - neither he nor his parents had sinned, but this blindness was so that the power of God might be displayed. God knew about a blind baby that would be born that would be used greatly by Him. God had a great plan for blind man who would bring glory to Him.

There are some heretical ministers who say all sickness and physical problems are due to sin. That is not true. Why are some babies born without sight or without hearing? Why are some babies born with physical problems? **Because these children may grow up to uniquely display the glory of God.**

I believe that God delights in displaying His power and glory in those who have been shattered by misfortune or even sin. God can do wonderful things with and for people who have been sick, diseased, who have suffered or who are troubled. Just because someone has an infirmity, does not mean they sinned. Just because one is sick, does not mean he is not right with God. God may be using that very sickness to accomplish great things. When we hurt or have some infirmity for which we have no explanation, the best question to ask is not why is this happening or what did I do wrong, but “how may I best glorify God.” I am certain this blind man had no clue what God had in store for him and you do not know how God may use your steadfast faithfulness.

Now in **verses 4-5**, Christ gives further insight as to why this man was blind - **to establish that He was the light of the world.** This was a miracle Christ would do while here on earth that would establish this reality. He would physically demonstrate what only He can spiritually do - make the blind see. You cannot know God or comprehend truth of God until you believe in Jesus Christ. He and He alone is the light of the world. The rest of the world is a dark, sin-filled, sin-cursed place.

The miracle is described in **verses 6-7**. Christ took some clay from the ground and spit on it to form mud and rubbed it on the man’s eyes. This makes things even darker. Not only is the man blind, but now he has mud patches over each eye. Then He told him to go to the pool of Siloam and wash. The man did and came back with his sight. Let us see anyone else do this. With all of our high tech optical equipment and our laser surgery technology, let us see anyone else do this. You’ll never see it.

Christ used clay from the ground to show this was no medicinal trick. He told him to go wash in water to illustrate the reality that no one receives sight unless they are washed clean and He is the only One who can wash us clean. You will not ever see things in the Word of God until you have been washed clean of your sins. The Word of God is the water that is able to bring about real conversion.

Charles Spurgeon said he knew of a blind Christian who said to another Christian, “I have a lot more to be thankful for than you do. You have used your eyes to see things that are sad and sinful. But the first thing I’ll see with my eyes will be the face of Jesus Christ.” There is a blind man who truly can see.

## **HEADING #2 – The reactions to the miracle performed by Jesus Christ. 9:8-34**

One would have thought every one would have been elated over the fact that the blind man could see. But that is not quite how the story goes. There are four different reactions in these verses:

**(Reaction #1)** - The reaction of the neighbors . **9:8-13** (Fascinated Skepticism)

The neighbors couldn't believe it. In fact, when they saw him, they said isn't this the blind guy who used to sit and beg? When you are truly saved, you don't have to beg anymore, ever again. I question people who every week go forward in some church and beg and plead to be right with God. You begin to wonder if they ever have truly been touched by Jesus Christ because when Jesus Christ touches your soul, you aren't blind anymore.

Some of the neighbors said, no this can't be the man - he just looks like him **(9:9)**. The beggar kept telling them that he was the same guy. So they asked him **(9:10)**, how did you get your sight? He told them - Jesus gave me my sight **(9:11)**. All this blind man knows is the name of Jesus **(v. 11)**. He doesn't know much more than this. That one name is all you still need to know to get spiritual sight and get everlasting life. The neighbors wanted to know where Jesus was - which the blind man didn't know. They also knew the Pharisees had to see this - so they took him before the Pharisees **(9:12-13)**, who were the same people who wanted to kill Christ.

Now think about this - these neighbors have the former blind man who can now see and he is standing before them telling them who he is and they still don't believe it. Do you see how evil and fanatical these people are? They will not believe truth when truth is right before them in person.

**(Reaction #2)** - The reaction of the Pharisees . **9:14-17** (Divided Rejection)

Now the Pharisees were so proper in their religion. Jesus dared to go for a walk on the Sabbath Day and heal someone on the Sabbath Day. Some of the Pharisees said this man is not from God **(9:16a)**. These were religious people who would rather be ruled by religious legalism than by the wonderful grace of God. But others were saying if He isn't from God, if He is just another sinner like us, how can He do such powerful things **(9:16b)**? These are people ruled by logic.

No one will ever be able to shake the resurrection of Jesus Christ. How is it that Jesus Christ came back from the grave and no one else has? Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, John Wayne, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Muhammad, Mary Baker Eddy, Elvis, Johnny Carson. The world wants these people back; why didn't they come back alive? They are not God and they cannot save any one. Only Jesus Christ can justify you and His resurrection proves it. He is the only God/Savior who can give you life.

The Pharisees asked the blind man who could now see what he thought, and he said he thought he was a real prophet of God **(9:17)**. They did not believe that and they did not believe him. Notice **verse 18**, they did not even believe this man had been born blind. They are trying to discredit him. There are some people who pretend to have some physical infirmity so they can do nothing in life and collect their government money. But this culture did not give them money and no one pretended to have an infirmity they did not have. These are the most religious people on this earth and they have not believed on Jesus Christ. They have all of their laws and religious rituals, but they do not have a real relationship with Jesus Christ.

**(Reaction #3)** - The reaction of the blind man's parents. **9:18-23** (Fearful Disassociation)

The parents were afraid that they would be excommunicated from the synagogue if they spoke up on behalf of Jesus Christ. When the Pharisees asked if their son had really been born blind (**9:19**), they responded he was born blind (**9:20**). When they were asked how he can now see, they said - ask him for he is old enough to testify himself (**9:21**). Notice **verse 22** - they were afraid to speak up for Jesus Christ so they told them to ask their son. The greatest joy of any parent is to be able to testify that their child, once blind, may now see.

**(Reaction #4)** - The reaction of the blind man. **9:24-34** (Honest Confession)

Notice how this all begins - the Pharisees call the blind man again and they say "we know" (**9:24**). **The truth is - they don't know**. They claim they really know that Jesus is a sinner like everyone else and they claim they have real knowledge about this when they don't have any knowledge. They are religious phonies and liars.

It doesn't matter what these parents say or what the blind man says or what Jesus says or does, these religious frauds have their minds made up and they claim they knew Jesus was a sinner. Often times unbelievers say "we know" when they don't know. Science often says it knows when it doesn't know. For example, "we know the world was created billions of years ago." They don't know that. They are making stuff up and guessing and are wrong.

The blind man responds in the following seven ways:

- 1) He refused to acknowledge that Jesus Christ was a sinner. **9:24b-25a**
- 2) He testified that he had been blind but now he sees. **9:25b**
- 3) He refused to tell them the process again. **9:26-27a**.
- 4) He asked the Pharisees if they wanted to become Christ's disciple. **9:27b**
- 5) He refuted the Pharisees' claim that He wasn't from God by his sight. **9:30**
- 6) He refuted their logic by reminding them God doesn't do things for sinners. **9:31**
- 7) He refuted their logic by pointing out no one has ever done this miracle before so He had to be from God. **9:32-33**

The Pharisees brand him a sinner and put him out of the synagogue. They cut him off from religious life, from employment and from his own family.

**HEADING #3** – The results of the miracle performed by Jesus Christ. **9:35-41**

There are two main results spelled out in these verses to this amazing miracle:

**(Result #1)** - The blind man believes in Christ and worships Christ. **9:35-38**

This former blind man had 20/20 vision physically and he had perfect vision spiritually. Notice carefully the chronology to the faith development of this blind man:

**Verse 11-** Jesus is a man who heals.

**Verse 17-** Jesus is a prophet who teaches.

**Verse 38-** Jesus is the Lord who is worshipped.

Jesus let this blind man go through all of this negative stuff to cement his own faith.  
To grow we need some troubles and trials and tests.

**(Result #2)** - The Pharisees remained blind in their sin and would die in it. **9:39-41**

Christ says if you would acknowledge your own spiritual blindness you could have your sins washed away. But since you do not acknowledge your own spiritual blindness - you are in your sin and you will die in your sin.

Do you want to know who is really blind? The entire religious world. All of these pious legalists and religious leaders would die in their sin.

- 1) We have all been born blind in sin. We are not right with God and please do not remain blind to this truth.
- 2) There is nothing we can do to give spiritual life and sight to ourselves.
- 3) Spiritual life and spiritual sight may only be found in Jesus Christ.
- 5) Believe totally and only in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins and you will have life and you will have light.

As John Newton said: "I once was lost but now am found; **was blind but now I see.**"