

John 9:35–41

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast [*the man born blind*] out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

³⁶ He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

³⁷ And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.”

³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

³⁹ And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.”

⁴⁰ Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?”

⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.

“The Blind and the Seeing” ***John 9:13-41***

INTRO:

In the beginning of this narrative, we saw the chief personalities in the account were the Lord Jesus and the blind man. At **verse 13** there appears a whole new cast of characters. Suddenly the Jews/Pharisees arrive on the scene. Their purpose is to do anything they can to discredit the miracle. Can the Lord Jesus cause a person who was blind to see? When we come to **verse 24** the focus moves from these spiritually blind souls to the one who now can see.

Why did John record the discussion after this miracle? He recorded it to teach us **verse 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. Those Who Think That They See But Who Are Blind (v. 13-23)

II. The One Who Was Blind But Now Sees (v 24-38)

I. Those Who Think That They See But Who Are Blind (v. 13-23)

A. The local people who know this man and have seen him begging did not know what to think about this and so they brought him to the religious authorities. **(v.13-14)**

“They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.”

They did this probably because they were convinced this was a major miracle. The Jewish leaders thought otherwise. Immediately they sought to discredit the miracle. There are three major pieces of evidence to support the veracity of the miracle. First, there is the testimony of those who knew him before he could see. **(vs. 8-9)**

1. These neighborhood people did not come to the leaders neutrally. Most likely they told the Pharisees that they knew this man and had known him for a long time.

2. Their testimony was strong testimony that this was truly a miracle. However, if you are predisposed to not believe, you try desperately to disprove what took place. Therefore, the Pharisees assumed the friends must be mistaken.

B. The second piece of evidence was the testimony of the man himself. (v. 15)

“So, the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, ‘He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.’”

1. The man answered the Jews with a Reader’s Digest condensed version of what took place. The Pharisees were smart enough to recognize the methodology did not produce the miracle. This was evidence for the Lord’s claims which these Jews did not want to hear.

2. In the face of a second piece of irrefutable evidence, they flee to their presuppositions. ***“Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?’ And there was a division among them.”*** (v. 16)

3. The Pharisees said, in effect, because we cannot believe the evidence, the man must be lying. This is common among those who will not believe in Jesus. Miracles are not likely to happen, therefore they did not happen. I have made up my mind. Do not confuse me with the evidence.

C. The third piece of evidence was the testimony of the parents. (vs. 18-23)

“The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’”

They cannot explain the miracle, so they put the burden of proof on his parents.

1. His parents’ testimony, which was given under duress, (John made it a point to show us this in **verse 22**) still was consistent with all the other testimony. He was born blind, we do not know how he sees.

2. What is the sum of the evidence produced? What is the only conclusion which can be reached? Everything pointed to this being a legitimate miracle. It was a miracle Jesus did. What do the Jews conclude? We read the answer in **verse 24**.

“So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, ‘Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.’”

We have to admit God did this, but whatever you do, don’t give credit to Jesus.

II. The One Who Was Blind But Now Sees. (v 24-38)

A. Now totally flummoxed, the Jewish leaders again interrogated the man who now can see. As we have already read in **verse 24**, they are desperate. Even if God Himself gets the glory for what Jesus did, the Lord Jesus was not to get credit.

B. While the Jews could not believe, something happened in the man born blind’s heart. Not only can he now see physically, he was beginning to see spiritually.

1. When he first told his story to his friends, he said Jesus was a man. He said, ***“The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’”*** (v. 11)

2. When the Jews first asked him who he thought Jesus was, he said, ***“So [the Jews] said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?’”*** He said, ***‘He is a prophet.’***” (v. 17)

3. After the grilling the leaders gave him, he began to think about what he experienced and heard. At the same time, God began to open his eyes spiritually. Next, we see his evidence reduced to its simplest form.

“He answered, ‘Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’”

The Jews’ problem was Jesus, who they claimed was a sinner, did the miracle!

C. The Jews will not give up. They asked him again in the next verse how this all happened.

They desperately looked for a gimmick. The man born blind responded **(John 9:27)**

“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?”

This really hits a nerve **(vs. 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.’”

In response this formerly blind man built an amazing argument for who the Lord is.

1. (v. 31) ***“Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.”***

He is not a sinner because God does not listen to sinners but only to those who worship Him and are obedient to Him.

2. (v. 32) ***“Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.”***

No one in history ever did what Jesus did. These Pharisees could not miss the repeated promise which said when the Messiah came He would open the eyes of the blind.

3. (v. 33) ***“If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”***

If Jesus was not from God, He could not do this miracle. The unstated conclusion is inescapable. If A and B and C then D. He is from God.

4. Faced with this unimpeachable logic, they still cannot accept the conclusion. **(v.34)**

“They answered and said to him, ‘You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?’ And they cast him out.”

D. Now the Lord Jesus who opened the blind man’s physical eyes, now fully opens his spiritual eyes.

“Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?’ Jesus said to Him, ‘You have seen Him, and it is He who is speaking to you.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe,’ and he worshiped Him.”

We have seen the two sides of the coin here. Those who were blind spiritually and believe that they can see, and the one who was blind physically and spiritually and now can see. Which one are you and I?

1. Have we examined the evidence? Are we willing to accept the inevitable conclusion? Are we then willing to respond in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ?

2. If we have come to Christ and He has saved us, what difference is that fact making in our lives? When questioned by those hostile to Christ, will we, like this formerly blind man, stand up and own Him even when it is unpopular to do so?

Hymn #381 Open My Eyes That I May See