

“The Joy of Knowing Jesus” John 9:35-41

“If I had a choice, I would still choose to be blind... for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Savior.”

Fanny Crosby

Was this the John 9 blind man’s experience? No, it seems it was not.

⁶ When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. ⁷ 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.** ⁸ Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, **“Is not this he who sat and begged?”** John 9:6–8 (NKJV)

It says he came back “seeing” but not that he saw Jesus first. What did this man see FIRST?

I. *The first thing this man saw was the sad reality of a sin-filled world –*

1. *As a blind beggar he may have missed a lot of this –*

⁸ ... **“Is not this he who sat and begged?”** John 9:8 B (NKJV)

A. *People were kind to him, when he was blind, they gave ...*

B. *Blindness was a consequence of sin (at least thought to be) –*

² And His disciples asked Him, saying, **“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”** John 9:2 (NKJV)

How much did he think of his own sinfulness? We don’t know, but I guess he did often. He saw his own sin more than that of others.

2. *First thing this man sees is that no one is happy for him –*

A. *They wonder at who he is, if he is who they think he is -* ⁸ ... **“Is not this he who sat and begged?”** John 9:8 B (NKJV)

B. *They take him to Jesus enemies –*

¹³ They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. John 9:13 (NKJV)

C. *His own parents are cowardly, when facing the Pharisees –*

²² His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that* He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, **“He is of age; ask him.”** John 9:22–23 (NKJV)

3. *The Pharisees cannot see the glory of what Jesus did, and because of their blind hate, they cast the man out -*

²⁴ 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.”** John 9:24 (NKJV)

³⁰ The man answered and said to them, **“Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! 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. ³² Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. ³³ If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?”** And they cast him out. John 9:30–34 (NKJV)

II. He had ideas about who / what Jesus was, but he did not know –

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.” John 9:17 (NKJV)

²⁵ He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know...” John 9:25 A (NKJV)

³³ If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” John 9:33 (NKJV)

III. Jesus comes to make Himself known –

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, ... John 9:35 (NKJV)

1. Note, Jesus comes to us (finds us) when we need Him most, for this man:

A. First, when he was blind –

B. And now when he is “cast out” and can “see” the cruelty and wickedness of man -

2. Jesus asks the most important question -

He said to him, “**Do you believe in the Son of God?**” John 9:35 B (NKJV)

Do you believe in Jesus? Do you know Him as God’s Son?

A. Note the man does not immediately answer, more than vision is needed -

- Yes, yes, yes, I believe in YOU! How could I not? You with that HALO around your head, your piercing brown eyes, your height, wow, YOU are TALL, now that I see YOU how can I not believe???

- Rather he says to Jesus –

³⁶ He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” John 9:36 (NKJV)

B. He needs more words from Jesus, more teaching to come to true faith –

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. John 9:36–38 (NKJV)

C. By Jesus’ Voice I believe the formally blind man knew Him, it is how all who are His sheep know Him –

²⁵ **Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.** John 5:25 (NKJV)

⁴ **And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.** John 10:4 (NKJV)

²⁷ **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.** John 10:27 (NKJV)

IV. *This is how we all come to know, and believe in, Jesus, through His Voice, through His Word -*

¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

1. *There was nothing in Jesus' physical appearance that would draw men to Him or cause faith –*

53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* ³He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.* ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.* Isaiah 53:1–5 (NKJV)

2. *Jesus' humble state was the REASON so many rejected Him, especially as He was beaten just pre-cross –*

⁵ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, “Behold the Man!” ⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.” John 19:5–6 (NKJV)

A. *Note, Pilate calls to them to “Behold the Man!” Meaning look at His physical appearance ...*

B. *They do just that -*

⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers **saw Him**, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.” John 19:6 (NKJV)

C. *They were looking at Jesus appearance, they were not believing the report - Who has believed our report? Isaiah 53:1 (A verbal report that you would hear, words you would read)*

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.* Isaiah 53:1–5 (NKJV)

V. *Jesus' judgment –*

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.**” John 9:39–41 (NKJV)

1. *That those who do not see, may see –*

These who understand their LIMITATIONS –

⁹ The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. Psalm 25:9 (NKJV)

A. *Those who are blind in this world often have a seeing eye dog. We who are blind spiritually, and realize it, we have a SEEING EYE- GOD!*

B. *Eye hath not seen, but we have the eyes and mind of Christ –*

⁹ But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man *The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*” ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

¹⁶ ... But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 (NKJV)

C. *Realizing our weakness, we avail ourselves of God’s strength –*

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)

³¹ But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

2. *Here the ungodly were the Pharisees – Why? How? How could those who separated themselves out to God be ungodly? They were BLIND without knowing it! Blind to their own sin! Blind to their own NEED! Blind to their own weaknesses!*

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. John 9:39–41 (NKJV)

... Yet you do not have because you do not ask. James 4:2 (NKJV)

VI. *The healed man’s worship -*

³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him. John 9:38 (NKJV)

1. *Treated Jesus as God –*

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

2. *He knew Jesus’ WORTH –*

One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.” John 9:25 B (NKJV)

3. *Jesus did no less for us, this is why we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we worship Jesus in this celebration –*

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

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