

**The Blind Man's Faith**

**John 9:35-41**

**35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"**

- This once blind man has had a whirlwind of a day. After receiving his sight, he was taken to the religious authority, left to answer for himself by his parents (which the bible communicates as a negative on their part), and most likely expelled from the synagogue.
- Through this ordeal the once blind man has made a series of changes regarding his belief concerning Jesus. At first, he only referred to his healer as "a man called Jesus". Then as they went along, Jesus started to receive promotions. The man suggested that he was a prophet, and then proceeded to argue as to why Jesus had to be a godly person on account that he could heal.
- By the end of this man's experience with the pharisees one can know that he had had enough with the religious authority of his day and was ready for something different. The Pharisees have rejected this healed man, they have rejected yet another testimony of the Son of God. This once blind man is ready to believe but does not yet know where to place his newfound faith.
- Jesus after hearing about his expulsion, takes the initiative to find the man to show him the fulness of faith. Jesus ask him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Son of Man is the proper translation and Jesus's preferred moniker throughout the gospels. There could be many reasons for this, but the main ones seem to be because this title is closely tied to several messianic passages in the OT both in Daniel and Isaiah. While this title is linked to authority and power, Jesus as the Messiah ties it also to humility and suffering.
- The Son of Man title is apt in this situation due to the conflict between Jesus and the religious authority; the Jews keep seeking to deal with Jesus through their law/tradition; however, this man is no mere man but the very fulfillment of the law.

**36-37 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."**

- Remember the man was not healed completely in his encounter with Jesus. Jesus sent him to wash the salve off in a pool of water.
- The usage of Lord here is translated "sir"; however, this escalates in verse 38.
- Here is the revelation, the reveal, the blind man having been healed and thoroughly fed up with the religious Jews is ready to believe, and now his benefactor reveals himself to him.

**38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.**

- Once the truth was out the once blind man believed without hesitation.

- The once blind man has now been blessed with both physical sight and spiritual. For now the man is paying homage or giving obeisance to Christ as Lord, for this Lord is not the same as the first, it is not the congenial “sir”, but Lord.

**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.”**

- This verse seems to conflict with John 3:17, but there is not really any issue. Jesus did come to save what was lost; however, from this story one can clearly see that the Pharisees were not lost at all, or at least they did not think they were.
- There are now two reactions to Christ the blind man’s immediate and excited faith, and the continual refusal of the religious Jew to believe even in the face of such powerful works.
- While Jesus did not come into the world to judge the world, it is an unescapable consequence of His very presence in the world.

Let us compare the blind man to the Pharisees:

- Take a look at the blind man: he knew very little, he did not know whether Jesus was a sinner or not, he did not know who the Son of Man was, all he knew was that once he was blind but now he was not. Jesus revealed himself to the blind man and the blind man saw!
- Meanwhile, the Jews knew Jesus was not from God, they knew He was a sinner, and in this way the Jew who knew they could see were confirmed in their blindness.
- It is in this way that judgment came to the Pharisees. The very gospel was before them, the messiah, the savior, and they rejected him.

“And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.”

**(Matthew 11:23)**

- The Jews who were so confident in their sight could not see at all, while the once blindman saw Christ for who he was when it was shown. Paul makes a similar comparison when talking about the message of the gospel when spoken by its messengers:

“For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?”

**(2 Corinthians 2:15–16)**

- Christ very coming, brings judgment.

**40-41 Then *some* of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore, your sin remains.**

- Apparently, this conversation was public, and some surmise that it took place in one of the temple precincts. Wherever the conversation took place is not relevant but the fact that it was overheard is.
- The person asking his question was not expecting a negative response. The question is better translated, “We are not blind too, are we?”
- Jesus replies to this question with more than a yes or no. He gives them the truth. It was the pharisees presumption of truth that obfuscated the reality of the Son of Man. What could Jesus teach them if they already knew all about Him. The commentator used this proverb well when describing the Pharisees in this situation:

“Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

**(Proverbs 26:12 NKJV)**

- These pharisees did not look foolish to their neighbors or friends, but they were indeed fools, for they presumed knowledge where they had none.

### **Applications**

1. Can you be told anything about God? Or do you have it all wrapped up, perhaps you believe that you and God have a good arrangement. Well this is not the case, for outside of Christ, you have nothing. Christ is the only way to God, for He is the very incarnate God who walked the earth born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and paid for the sins of His people on the cross, rose again, and ascended into heaven after appearing to many hundreds of witnesses. God does not have relationships outside of these truths.
2. Are you trusting like the once blind man? The healed man from the start of the story trusted and obeyed Jesus, and when Jesus was revealed he immediately worshipped. There is never a time when the Christian can do away with the Lordship of Christ, He is Lord, and if you are His child you will follow Him. A Christian should make it a point and a discipline to pursue holiness. This is done by being a disciple, by following what God has laid out in His word!
3. Do we have vision? “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18) What is vision? This verse in proverbs vision is used to signify the law, and where there is no law there is chaos. The Jews after their release from captivity, no longer only followed the scriptures, but had added to it the Talmud or the traditions of the rabbis. If I am honest, these are nasty and terrible books that allow for great sin and are no better than the hadiths of the Muslims. The point is as Christians, we must keep our eyes on Christ and His word lest we become blinded by traditions and preference like the Pharisee. We must like Christ bend to those who need not demand of them to make pilgrimage up the steps of our tradition like the Jews.