

"Who is Jesus?": Blinding Light John 9:24-41

Introduction:

- Review the account in **9:1-23**
- Show progress of blind man's conversion and those in resistance, with Christ as the central figure.
- This is the second interrogation by the Pharisees.
- The young man has already bore testimony that Jesus is a man, then a prophet...this in light of the cowardice of his parents and the threat of excommunication from the synagogue.

Reaction to Blinding Light (vv.24-34)

- A) God's Glory and the Truth (**v.24**)
 - a. A Plea for Truth
 - b. Truth when Man is the Authority
 - i. Denial of Christ
 - ii. Acceptance of Man's view
- B) Testifying to Truth is Enough (**vv.25-34**)
 - a. Stating Truth & Experience (**v.25**)
 - i. Encourage young believers
 - ii. Flies in the face of those who use their personality as an excuse for not witnessing. He has only known the life of a humiliated beggar.
 - b. Truth Divides (**vv.26-29**)
 - i. Christ alone
 - 1. Circumstances are relatively unimportant (Pink)
 - 2. **A.W. Pink**, *"Faith is occupied not with the manner in which you held out your hand to receive God's gift, but with Christ Himself! But unbelief*

is occupied with the 'how' rather than with the 'whom'." (Personal testimony to this)

- ii. Moses points to Christ
- iii. Unknown origin
 - 1. Previous claim (**John 7:25-28**)
 - 2. Prophetic office
- iv. God uses the foolish things
- c. Truth Known and Realized (**vv.30-34**)
 - i. Truth: **Argument 1** (*IVP NT Commentary* helped with this idea)
 - 1. Christ-centered
 - 2. Worship-focused
 - ii. Experience: **Argument 2**
 - 1. Born blind (total depravity / inability)
 - 2. Power of God
 - 3. Don't be stumped by the secular humanists attempt at intellectual argument. Primary truth with humble personal testimony will refute their arguments. Remember, that only Christ can change their hearts. Their logic is flawed.
 - iii. Inherent goodness
 - 1. Relative
 - 2. Self-righteousness
 - 3. Persecuting true believers (excommunication)

C) APPLICATION:

- a. Christian: Haven't you experienced at least as much as this blind man? Do you share your faith with this boldness? What possible excuse do we have? WHAT IS THAT "ONE THING YOU KNOW..."?
- b. Unbeliever: Do you still think that you're okay spiritually? Are you looking at others, comparing yourself and feel like God would look upon you favorably? Are you more consumed with "how" you might be saved rather than "who" it is that alone can save you?

The Blind See...the Seeing are Blinded (vv.35-41)

A) Jesus Heals the Real Blindness (vv.35-38)

- a. Disbelief is real blindness
 - i. **John 3:18**, *“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”*
 - ii. Satan has “blinded” (**2 Cor.4:4**, *“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*)
- b. Belief in Christ leads to Worship
 - i. Submission (“Lord”)
 - ii. Belief (**John 20:30-31**, *“30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*)
 - iii. Worship
 1. Man (**v.11**)
 2. Man of God (**v.17**)
 3. Worshiped as God (**v.38**)
 - a. Notice the focus is on Christ’s gracious initiative in worship, not a sense of “unfairness” that this man was born blind.
 - b. It is the tender compassion and saving grace that is in view)

B) Jesus’ Purpose (vv.39-41)

- a. Judgment
 - i. **John 3:17-19**, *“17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,*

but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

- ii. Krisis – sifting or separating – the above passage helps us understand this truth

- b. Those Blind See
- c. Those Seeing become Blind (leading to chapter 10)

C) Man’s Interpretation

- a. Man’s choice proves the point
- b. **1 John 1:8**, *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*
- c. Only those illuminated can see their guilt
- d. Those who deny sinfulness and the need for Christ remain lost

D) APPLICATION:

- a. Are you defending your ability to see all things well? Are you your own light, essentially believing in yourself, perhaps comparing yourselves to others and feeling okay?
- b. Do you acknowledge that you are blind and a beggar, in need of Christ? Do you acknowledge your own sinfulness, Christ’s rule and belief in all that Christ has been, is and will be?
- c. You either claim that you see just fine, not needing Christ, or you will acknowledge you are blind, needing a savior, and not satisfied until Jesus is all you see!