

Whereas I was Blind, Now I See

John 9: 1-11; 25

We all know that great hymn well: Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me; I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see. We find in our text an account of our Lord touching the eyes of a blind man. He was hopeless and helpless until Jesus came by his way.

As I pondered these verses, I was reminded that we all can relate to this man. I have never suffered from physical blindness, but there was a day when I was blinded to the things of God. We are all born in sin, blinded to the Lord.

You are in one of two categories today; you have either been healed of that spiritual blindness or you remain blinded by sin, not seeing the need for Jesus. Just as Jesus touched the eyes of this man, He desires to free you from the bondage of darkness. I hope that as we look at these verses, if you've never been saved you will trust in the Lord today to open your eyes, so that you might say as the blind man did: [Whereas I was Blind, Now I See!](#)

I. The Reality of the Man – In this man we see a picture of all men. He stands as a representation and a reminder to all that read of his story. Sin is a reality to all our lives. [All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none righteous, no not one.](#) Let's consider the reality he faced.

A. He was a Blind Man (1) – This man was blind from birth. He had never experienced the beauties of this world. He had never seen the sun rise or set. He had never seen the beauty of a rose or the smile on a child's face. I'm sure that he often wondered how it would be to see as others did.

- But, the fact remained that no matter how much he wanted to see, he was blind. There was nothing that he or anyone else that knew him could do about it. His mother and father were helpless to give him sight.
- That is true for all men. We were all born blind in a spiritual sense; and as long as we are blinded by sin, we never truly experience the beauty of God's creation. Our friends and loved ones can pray for us and hope that one day we will see, but they are helpless in giving us sight.
- I remember the despair of being blind to the Lord. I wanted to see, but I was helpless to remove the darkness that sin had caused. You may be here today and are blinded by sin. Sadly, the longer that you remain blind the darker it gets. Sin will not get any better; it only gets worse! A touch from Jesus is the only answer.

B. He was a Broken Man (2, 8) – This man had to rely on begging to meet his needs. He was unable to provide for himself and depended on the mercies of others to make it. Can you imagine how that must have been? If that wasn't bad enough he had to listen to the whispers and accusations of others, [V.2](#). I'm sure that he was constantly hearing those who accused him of some great sin resulting in his blindness. No doubt there were times when he felt all alone.

- That is the condition of the lost today. Spiritually they are beggars. They don't enjoy the grace of God in their life. They are dependent on others to help them in times of need. Thank God I can go to the throne of grace in my time of need, but the lost don't have that privilege. Many times they are rejected and despised by those around them. Many are counting on this world, but the world doesn't care for them.

- I don't know where you stand today. You may be broken from a life of sin, suffering in pain. You may feel as if there's no hope. Sin will take you down a lonely road. Church we need to share a heart of compassion, rather than words of condemnation. There is a world of broken people who need someone to care for them. We need to show them the love of Christ! He alone can meet their needs.

C. He was a Blessed Man (1) – You might say how in the world was he a blessed man; he was a blind beggar, broken by his condition. Notice [V.1](#), [As Jesus passed by, he saw a man](#). We have no idea how many years he had lived in that condition, but his day of redemption was at hand. He had endured much suffering and misery, but the Master passed by and saw him!

- Glory to God for the day that Jesus passed by. This day likely started as many others before, but on this day he was to have an encounter with the Lord. It makes no difference how bad life seems Jesus can make a difference. There was much in my life that seemed hopeless, but in my despair I was blessed because Jesus saw me and passed by my way!

- It may seem that your life isn't worth living, that everything has fallen apart, but if Jesus is dealing with your heart today, you are blessed. He wants to deliver you from the blindness of sin. The day I met Jesus was the best day of my life. The outward circumstances still remained, but I became a child of God!

I. The Reality of the Man

II. The Reaction of the Master – It is interesting to note how Jesus reacted to the needs of the man and to the questions of the disciples. Jesus came to do a work in this man's life and provide for our needs as well. In these verses Jesus reveals what He has come to earth to do. Notice:

A. His Motive (3) – The disciples thought in much the same way as many of the Jews in that day. When they saw someone taken in an infirmity, it was believed that some sin had been committed to cause this problem. Jesus reminded them that this man's condition wasn't the result of individual sin, but of man's fallen nature. This man would be healed to glorify God and manifest His works.

- Here Jesus reveals His reason for coming to earth. This man needed a Savior as well as his parents. Sin is universal. It isn't about how good or bad we are, but the fact that we are all sinners in need of salvation. The priests and rulers of that day wouldn't admit it, but they were in great need themselves.

- Jesus came that we might have forgiveness. We tend to categorize sin, but sin is sin in the eyes of God. Sin can and does bring consequences, but I was just as lost as an eleven year old boy as anyone could be! [1 Tim.1:15 – This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.](#) Jesus came to save us from the sin that condemns us before God!

B. His Mission (4-5) – Jesus had come with a mission to fulfill. He had not come simply to walk among men teaching the Scriptures, healing the sick, and comforting the weary; He had come to bring light to a dark world, [V.5](#), delivering men from the bondage of sin.

- Already His eyes were fixed on Calvary. He wanted the disciples to see the eternal work that was being done. Jesus came to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He had come to open the eyes of this blind man and all who were blinded by sin.

- Aren't you glad that Jesus' mission wasn't just to meet the physical needs of the Jews who were alive in His day? He came for you and me as well. He could see, down through the ages of time, that we would be born in sin needing a Savior! Because of Jesus I have hope today. Because of what He did on the cross, I have been redeemed. I know this world rejects the cross and its message, but without the cross we have no hope. [1 Cor.1:18 – For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.](#) Jesus died that we might live!

C. His Miracles (6-7) – Jesus had compassion on the blind man. He was in need of a touch that only Jesus could give. There was nothing special about this man; there was nothing in him that merited the favor of God. He wasn't looking for Jesus, but He saw him. It was grace and mercy that brought his healing.

- There is no greater miracle than opening blinded eyes. This man would've died blind had Jesus not come by and touched him. We would all die lost in sin had it not been for the saving grace of our Lord. Jesus came to open blinded eyes. He came to restore what sin lost.

- He is still working miracles today. He still has the ability to save men from their sin. The blood hasn't lost its power. There is hope for all who need a miracle in their lives; it is found in the touch of Jesus. I don't know what you need, but Jesus can supply whatever need you may have!

I. The Reality of the Man

II. The Reaction of the Master

III. The Response of the Multitude – It was evident to see that a miracle had been performed; a man who was blind could see. There were different responses to the work of Christ. I'm sure that everyone here has seen a life that has been touched by the Lord. You have responded in one of three ways, just as these did. Notice:

A. Some were Astonished (8) – Some of the man's neighbors saw and realized that he had been healed. They had no problem with the power of the Lord. It is apparent that these also believed in the power of Jesus.

- They represent those who see the Lord and believe in His power. You may be here and have never trusted Christ as your personal Savior, but you have witnessed the change in others. You have no doubt that God can change lives.
- If you believe that Jesus can do it for others, why not trust Him to make that same change in your life. He wants to touch you as well! If God can save me, He can save you! It takes more than knowing that He can; you must believe that He will do it for you. You must come in faith.

B. Some were Apprehensive (9) – Some saw the man and almost believed. It sure looked like the same fellow, but they were uncertain as to whether it was really him. All of the facts pointed to the work of the Lord, but they just couldn't believe.

- This group pictures those who are skeptical about the work of the Lord. They have seen lives that appear to have been changed, but just can't give over and believe. They think that there may be something to the Man Jesus, but just can't fully grasp it.
- If you are apprehensive about the saving power of Christ, allow me to share what I know to be true. This church is filled with those who were just like this man and you. They were blinded by sin, living among the world until Jesus passed by. They are not here today because

of a change that they have made, but a change that Jesus made in their lives! I have seen too many lives changed, including my own to doubt the power of my blessed Lord.

C. Some were Appalled (18-22) – Here we find the religious rulers of that day who absolutely would not believe. They had seen the miracle and yet they chose to deny the power of Christ.

- There are many today who choose to reject the Lord. The evidence is clear that He has made a change in people's lives, but they just will not believe. These are walking on dangerous ground. The Spirit of God has revealed Himself to them and they openly reject Him.
- You must make that choice. I pray that you won't respond as the Jews did in rejecting the Lord. He has spoken to your heart that you might be saved. If you reject His call and deny His power, He may never pass by your way again. If you are to find forgiveness and salvation, you must believe in Christ through faith in the finished work of the cross!

How we respond to the Lord will determine where we spend eternity. There is no middle ground. You are either saved or lost. You have either accepted what Christ has done or rejected it.

The choice is yours to make. Will you believe that Jesus is able to save you today or will you walk away lost, rejecting His power and call to repentance? I urge you to come while the Lord is near. He may not pass by your way again.