

HEALING SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

John 9:35-41 (p. 1666)

April 14, 2019

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said,

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is he, sir?” the man asked, “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking to you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

*Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world,
so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”*

John 9:35-39

Revealing the “light of the world”

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

John 9:1 (see John 8:12 for the “I am” of light)

With friends like this . . .

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked,

“Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

John 9:8

The mission: being light of the world

*“ . . . so that the blind will see
and those who see will become blind.”*

John 9:39 (for the mission, see Luke 4; John 9:4-5; 20:21-22)

Becoming blind so that I can see

*Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"
Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin;
but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."
John 9:40-41*

1) A sinner is A BEAUTIFUL THING, THE HOLY SPIRIT MADE HIS SO (Spurgeon)

2) Spiritual sight begins with REPENTANCE

Resources for further study of John 9

The Belgic Confession, Articles 18-21, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>.

Doug's favorite definition of faith comes from the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 7, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

James Montgomery Boice's essays at <https://www.monergism.com/these-things-are-written-so-you-may-believe>

Deffinbaugh's study of John's gospel (#21, 22) at <https://bible.org/series/you-might-believe-study-gospel-john>

Martin Lloyd-Jones' studies at <https://www.monergism.com/life-god-soul-man-john-410-13%E2%80%9314>

John MacArthur's "The Hopelessness of the Stubbornly Blind" at <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/43-51/the-hopelessness-of-the-stubbornly-blind>

Spurgeon's sermon on John 9, "Sight for Those Who See Not" at <https://www.monergism.com/sight-those-who-see-not>

Earl Palmer's *The Intimate Gospel* (Word, 1987).

Merrill Tenney's *John: The Gospel of Belief* (Eerdmans, 1948).

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 7

Q 21. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;¹

it is also a wholehearted trust,² which the Holy Spirit creates in me³ by the gospel,⁴ that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also,⁵ forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation.⁶

These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.⁷

¹ John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19 ² Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16

³ Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14 ⁴ Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21 ⁵ Gal. 2:20;

⁶ Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10; ⁷ Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

Reading for Holy Week

Monday: John 11:1-45, Lazarus

How does this miracle prepare us for the cross and empty tomb? What is the difference between resuscitation and resurrection? Which are you hoping for today?

Tuesday: John 12, Anointing, Triumph and Disbelief

Is the Triumphal entry more coronation or temptation for Jesus? How are you handling the tension between recognition and serving?

Wednesday: John 13, The New Commandment

John 13 will prepare us for our “Maundy Wednesday” gathering. How does Jesus move his disciples from washing feet to a new command?

Thursday: John 14, Comfort and Holy Spirit

Why are the themes of comfort and the Holy Spirit so important at this moment in Jesus’ relationship with his disciples? What comfort are you seeking this week as we approach the cross and resurrection?

Friday: John 15, Vine and Branches

This is, I believe, the high point of the “in him” theme in John’s Gospel – branches “in” the vine! How have you experienced both the pruning and fruit bearing seasons of your “in the vine” life?

Saturday: John 17, Jesus’ Prayer

The “Lord’s Prayer” is where Jesus pours out his heart for us. Which of Jesus’ words are especially important for you in this day between cross and resurrection?