

Blind Man Encounters Jesus “Finding True Sight”



The Story: John 9:1-44

Background and Story Recap (partially adapted from Bible.org)

One day Jesus and His disciples came across a man who had been born physically blind. Being blind has always been tough and challenging. But back in those days there were no Braille books for blind people, no seeing-eye-dogs, and no way for a blind person to work. This man had no choice but to beg for money. The disciples asked Jesus an interesting question - "Rabbi, who sinned? Was this man born blind because he sinned? Or did his parents sin?" Reality is that often our sin leads to pain and suffering (Biblical principle of reaping what we sow, Gal 6:7-8). *But* the disciples were mistaken to think that **all** suffering was caused by sin.

"It isn't because this man sinned," said Jesus. "It isn't because his parents sinned. **This happened so that God's work could be shown in his life.** While it is still day, we must do the work of the One who sent Me. Night is coming. Then no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After He said this, He spit on the ground. Then He put the mud on the man's eyes.

"Go," He told him. "Wash in the Pool of Siloam."

So the man went and washed. And he came home able to see. After the man washed off the mud, he could see for the first time in his life! (*BTW – giving sight to the blind is a predicted Messianic activity, Isa 29:18, 32:3, 35:5, 42:7*). When he went home, his neighbors could hardly believe that he could see. They asked him what had happened. He told them what Jesus had done. They asked where Jesus was, but by then the man did not know where He was.

Brought Before The Pharisees

This all had happened on a Sabbath day. The Sabbath was a special day each week that was set aside to rest and to remember the Lord. The Pharisees were very strict about keeping the Sabbath. Of course, it was right to rest and remember God, as God had instructed His people to do. But the Pharisees made the Sabbath into something it was not. They added SO many rules that it was almost impossible to keep the Sabbath. For example, a person could drag a chair across a hard floor, but he wasn't allowed to drag it across dirt, because it would make a groove in the dirt that looked like the groove a farmer would make with his plow. Isn't that ridiculous? If people didn't follow all of the Pharisees' rules about the Sabbath, they could be thrown out of the synagogue or worse. The Pharisees' rules even turned resting into work!

The Pharisees had it all wrong. The truth is: the Sabbath is for our good (Mark 2:27). It is good for us to rest and it is even better for us to remember God. It is not wrong for us to help others and glorify God on the Sabbath. Many times as Jesus walked the earth, He did good things on the Sabbath. Jesus said it is right to do good on the Sabbath (Luke 6:9, John 7:23).

The man whose sight had been restored was taken to the Pharisees. They asked him how he was healed. "(Jesus) put mud on my eyes," the man replied. "Then I washed. And now I can see." Some of the Pharisees said, "Jesus has not come from God. He does not keep the Sabbath day." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" Some of the Pharisees were more concerned with what day it was than the fact that Jesus was able to heal a man's sight! But some started to think He must be from God. They asked the healed man what he thought of Jesus. The man said, "He is a prophet."

Many people doubted the healed man's story because no one had ever been healed from blindness before. They called in the man's parents to ask them about it. His parents were afraid to say too much because they did not want to be thrown out of the synagogue. "We know he is our son," the parents answered. "And we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he can now see. And we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is an adult. He can speak for himself."

The Pharisees brought the healed man back in. The Pharisees tried to get him to say that Jesus was a sinner. The man refused to agree with them. He said, "I do know one thing. I was blind, but now I can see!" They continued to ask him questions, trying to find fault with Jesus. They became very angry when they could not get the man to speak against Jesus. The Pharisees said of Jesus, "We don't even know where this fellow comes from."

The man answered, "That is really surprising! You don't know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to godly people who do what He wants them to do. Nobody has ever heard of anyone opening the eyes of a person born blind. If this Man had not come from God, He could do nothing."

The Pharisees became furious at the man and they threw him out of the synagogue.

Face To Face With The Savior

Jesus heard the Pharisees threw the man out *and looked for him*. When He found him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is He, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me, so I can believe in Him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen Him. In fact, He is the One speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him. What a beautiful picture of our Savior! Knowing the man was kicked out of the presence of the religious leaders, **Jesus came to him**. Because Jesus had healed him, the man knew Jesus was *from* God, but he did not yet know that Jesus WAS God. The healed man asked to see the "Son of Man." [FYI - This was a name that meant the Messiah (Daniel 7:13-14), and was Jesus' favorite title for himself]. Jesus said, "You have now seen Him." Instantly, the man believed and worshipped Jesus. He chose to leave his spiritual darkness and place his faith in "the Light" in front of him.

Much more important than the man's physical eyesight was his spiritual eyesight. Seeing with his eyes was a symbol for seeing with his heart. At this moment he could "see" more than the most educated Jewish teachers and Pharisees. Now he knew the truth about Jesus, the Light of the world.

Life Lessons for Us Today

- 1) Jesus is the "Light of the World" (John 8:12, 9:5)! His followers are to also be lights to the world! (Matthew 5:14-16).
- 2) Jesus can heal people physically. More importantly, Jesus can heal people spiritually!
- 3) Our faith and obedience to Jesus is rewarded.
- 4) Sometimes bad things happen to us that are not our fault. When bad things happen to us there are potential benefits, such as God being glorified when He helps us through our troubles.
- 5) We don't have to know all the answers to share about Jesus; we can share our stories and share what we do know.
- 6) Good works pave the way for the good news (e.g. meeting physical needs opens the door to share spiritual truth about Jesus).
- 7) Doing good works trumps arbitrary adherence to legalistic rules.
- 8) Knowing about God is not the same thing as really knowing God.
- 9) Other?