

How To Live Sent In Light Of Christ (Part 2) – John 9:1-41

John 9. This is part 2 of a sermon I started last week on this passage, about the healing of a man born blind. The 6th of 7 signs that John records. First to prove that Jesus is the Messiah; second, to point out that seeing is not always believing; and third, to show us how to live sent in light of Jesus. In light of *our* sight.

And within that last purpose, we find at least 8 principles. 8 ways we should live, in order to live sent. The first, from Part 1, was . . .

Live with a sense of urgency (v1-7)

V4 – *We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day* [Jesus said]; *night is coming, when no one can work*. Procrastinate no longer and sit out no more. Second . . .

Don't be bashful about God's work in your life (v8-12)

Own it and recount it just like the former blindman. Who *kept saying* [in v9], *"I am the man."* "I'm the one. The one Jesus healed." Don't be bashful. Third . . .

Keep it simple (v13-17)

When opportunities arise to speak of Jesus, be concise and be clear. "Jesus is Lord. Jesus loves you. Hell is real. Judgment is coming." And fourth . . .

Don't let your fear of rejection silence you (v18-23)

Like the *parents* of the former blindman. Be winsome, but speak up. Conquer your fear and live sent. That was Part 1.

Which brings us to v24-34. Where the Jewish leaders hold *another* inquisition. And once again, from the example of the former blindman . . .

Don't let your lack of knowledge silence you (v24-34)

Don't let your fear of *rejection* silence you, and don't let your lack of *knowledge* silence you. You don't need a degree to speak the truth. You don't have to be a pastor. You may not know everything about God and his ways, but you don't have to.

Nor do you need a degree to *think*. Or some special knowledge in order to reason. God has given you the Holy Spirit just like every other believer, and to the extent he prompts, you should speak. Articulating what you know, avoiding what you don't, and always learning more.

V24. The parents of the former blindman just told the Jewish leaders to ask *him* about his eyesight – [24] *So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."* In other words, "Speak the truth. Give credit where credit is due. And it can't be due to this Jesus guy because he's a sinner. He violated the Sabbath. So come on. Get real."

[25] *He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. [Once again, he admitted it.] One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

What a mic drop. "I don't know everything, but I know this: I once was blind, but now I see." Instead of allowing his lack of knowledge to *silence* him, he spoke up with what he knew.

Speak up and **say what you know**. Whether under fire or over coffee. A big part of living sent in light of Christ, is talking about him. Talking about the one who's *at hand*. Present.

[26] *They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"* Now, I don't know if the former blindman was counting or not, but that's the fourth time he was asked that question! First by his neighbors in v10, then by the Pharisees in v15, then by the Jewish leaders in v19, probably the Sadducees, the Sanhedrin; and now a fourth time, by the same group, here in v26!

Why? Why all the "how" questions? Because they refused to *believe* the miracle, due to the obvious implications about Jesus. And therefore needed a reason to doubt it. Some way to *justify* their unbelief. Some reason to *support* their opposition.

It's why so many in our day do the same thing. Questioning the truthfulness of the Bible. Or the *divinity* of Jesus. His resurrection. His lordship. Because if they accept it, if they believe it, they either have to humble themselves and repent, or face eternal judgment. I think that's why so many people, even smart people, go to such great lengths to deny the truth about Jesus. Make sure you're not one of them.

[27] *He answered them* [he answered their "how" question], *"I have told you already, and you would not listen. [Talk about bold. He called them out.] Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"* Sarcasm at its best. To show how exasperated *he* was, and how ridiculous they were. Constantly asking questions, but never accepting the answers. Constantly learning, but never arriving at the truth. (2 Tim 3:7)

You've seen it. People who know a lot but never believe. No matter how much conviction they feel. How much truth they hear. How much evidence is given. They just keep asking the same questions and saying the same things.

And there comes a point when they need to be called out. Confronted. A point at which you have to **say it like it is**. After the same questions and same issues over and over again, there comes a point when you have to say, "I've already told you. You won't listen. What's the point?" Say it like it is and put the onus on them.

And then manage your expectations. Because true to form, the council of inquisition wasn't having it. V28. The former blindman said it like it was – [28] *And they reviled him* [insulted and disparaged him; almost always the response of hard hearts], *saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses."* [Following the Old Testament *Law*.]

[29] *We know that God has spoken to Moses* [in giving the Law], *but as for this man* [Jesus], *we do not know where he comes from.* "Moses came from the lineage of Levi, one of the 12 sons of Jacob. Moses came from the presence of God on Mt Sinai. We don't know *anything* about Jesus." In one fell swoop, they insulted the former blindman, they justified themselves, and they doubted Jesus. Quite the trifecta. And the norm.

But once again, it didn't stop the guy from speaking. From giving a reasoned response. [30] *The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! [More sarcasm.] You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.* And now check out the chain of logic to explain himself.

[31] *We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.* [He lays a foundation based on their own beliefs. (Is 59:2)] [32] *Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.* [Another truth they couldn't deny.] [33] *If this man were not from God [if he wasn't a worshipper, if he wasn't doing God's will], he could do nothing.*"

In other words, "How can you be so blind? If Jesus wasn't from God, or he was sinful and disobedient, he couldn't do *anything* miraculous. Let alone a miracle that's never been done before."

You may not know everything, but use what you do know to **give a reasoned response**. That's the third way to speak up when you don't know everything. Say what you know, say it like it is, and give a reasoned response. They still might not accept it, but they never will if you don't offer it. (Rom 10:14) It's a vital part of living sent in light of Christ.

But even the best logic is lost on those who won't listen. [34] *They answered him, "You were born in utter sin [the same mistaken notion that started it all, v2], and would you teach us?"* [The most holy and learned people around? Who do you think you are?] *And they cast him out.* The very thing his *parents* feared. Because unbelief, once again, almost always results in pride, anger, and rejection when confronted. Almost always.

But don't let it silence you. Neither your fear, nor your lack of knowledge. When the Holy Spirit prompts, say what you know, say it like it is, and give a reasoned response. It's the 5th way to live sent in light of Christ.

6th, from v35-37, is to . . .

Ask the question (v35-37)

Living sent in light of Christ includes straight up asking people if they believe in him. Bringing people to a point of decision. And this time it comes from the example of Jesus.

[35] *Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him [implying that he was seeking him; love that] he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"* The Messiah. "Or is the miracle wasted on you?" That's the implication I think. Because that's the case with so *many* people. God does a work in their life, and they either ignore it or explain it away.

Maybe even you. Saying things like, "I went to the doctor and the tumor just happened to shrink. I woke up one morning and just started feeling better. I don't why, but I don't seem to worry anymore." So often, the work of God in our life is lost on us. *Wasted* on us.

But not this guy. [36] *He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"* Who is the Messiah? A legitimate question even though Jesus is right in front of him. Because remember, this is the first time he's actually *seen* Jesus. Up to this point, he had only heard his voice when he was sent to the pool of Siloam.

[37] *Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."* "You're lookin' at him. You're lookin' at the Messiah."

What a moment. And what an example. That part of living sent in light of Christ is asking people – **Do you believe in Jesus?**

So often, we unnecessarily *prolong* conversations, and talk about peripheral things, instead of cutting to the chase and asking the question. Discerning their heart and bringing them to a point of decision.

There are times in the lobby when I am so compelled to ask the question, I can't help it. Somebody's going on and on about an issue or a question, and I just blurt it out. "Do you believe in Jesus?" And without fail, there's an instant softening. Sometimes they say, "Yes;" and other times, "I'm not sure," or "I don't think so;" and every now and then "No." All of which gives me an opportunity to either *assure* them of their salvation and continue with the conversation, or share the good *news* of Jesus.

Instead of letting people float along in their sin, and error, and endless issues; ask the question. The core issue.

7th, the seventh way to live sent in light of Christ, is . . .

Confess your belief and worship openly (v38)

Having just identified himself as the Messiah, the Savior of the world sent from God, the blindman responded in v38 with a confession and an action. [38] *He said, "Lord, I believe [a confession], " and he worshiped him [an action].* A confession and an action that *always* go together. Belief *always* leads to worship. Worship *always* follows belief. If it doesn't, you have to ask yourself whether you really believe. Ask *yourself* the question.

If you don't have an overwhelming desire and nagging impulse to worship both personally and corporately on a regular basis, on your own and in here, something's wrong. Your belief is either weak or fake. And the best thing you can do is confess it *openly*, and *worship* openly. Just like the blindman.

Seeing for the first time, both physically and spiritually, he couldn't help it. He focused his mind's attention, his hearts affection, and his will's submission on the one who did it. He worshipped. Right then and there. And presumably the rest of his life.

Because that's what sent people *do*. That's what *saved* people do. That's what *changed* people do. They confess their belief and declare God's worth. Over and over. They praise his glory. They lift their voice. They raise their arms. They clap their hands.

It's the very thing we do every Sunday. Or should do. And the very thing we're going to do at the close. Make sure you're all in.

And . . .

Make sure you see in the first place (v39-41)

That's the last way to live sent in light of Christ. [39] *Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world [that is, for the sake of determining who's who and distinguishing between them; for *that* kind of judgment I came into the world], *that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.*"* Judged.

It's the principle that this entire event is meant to illustrate. That Jesus came to open the eyes of those who are spiritually blind and *want* to see, and seal the fate of those who *think* they see, but don't and don't want to. Becoming blind forever.

[40] *Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” “Are you saying we need to see? Are you saying we’re clueless to the things of God? And therefore in the latter group? Those who think they see but really don’t?” “Are we also blind?”*

[41] *Jesus said to them, “If you were blind [if you had no spiritual eyesight; no spiritual awareness], you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ [implied by their objection to being called blind (40)] your guilt remains.*

In other words, “If you weren’t *exposed* to the things of God, or you had no *knowledge* of me, or no *awareness* of God’s work, you would have no *guilt* for your sin. You wouldn’t be responsible for it. But because you say, ‘*We see*,’ you are. You *are* responsible for your sin.”

It's one of the verses in the Bible that implies **an age of accountability**. An age at which a person has the ability to understand these things. An ability to grasp spiritual truths. An awareness of God and his greatness. Even from the heavens above and creation below. (Rom 1:19-20) No knowledge of that, Jesus said, no “eyesight” for such things, no guilt.

That’s why infants who die, go to heaven. Not because they don’t have a sin nature; everyone single one of us is born with that. Rather, they have no *awareness* of their sin. And no awareness of *God*. No sense of his work, or ability to grasp it. So God doesn’t hold them accountable for their sin. *If you were blind* [spiritually unaware], *you would have no guilt*.

Same for those with extreme mental disabilities. No knowledge, no spiritual eyesight, no guilt. There’s an age of accountability.

But the main point here, is make sure you see. Open the eyes you have. **Humble yourself and stay humble**. Because those who *acknowledge* their blindness will see, but those who don’t, those full of pride, those who *think* they see, won’t. They won’t see their sin, they won’t see their Savior, and they won’t see Life. Humble yourself and stay humble.

And second, **believe and keep believing**. Acknowledge the work of God in your *life*, and his work in *history*, and his work in the *world*; and follow him. Trust him in faith. Believe. And if you already do, if you *already* see, don’t let the darkness of sin cloud your view. Turn your eyes upon Jesus and keep them there. Believe and keep believing.

Summary

8 principles, eight ways, to live sent in light of Christ. In light of who he is and what he’s done. Opening the eyes of our heart to confess our belief, speak the truth, live with urgency, and worship openly.

Prayer – Do that more and more, will you Lord? Open the eyes of our heart. To see *you*, and your work, and your Word. Spur us on to share what we know. And fill our hearts with wonder, and awe, and praise so that we can’t *help* but worship you openly.

You Are Loved