

BLIND MAN'S SALVATION

Thursday, February 8

Reading: John 9:35-41

John 9:35 *Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when He found him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*
36 *"Who is He, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in Him."* **37** *Jesus said, "You have now seen Him; in fact, He is the One speaking with you."* **38** *Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Him.*

After being excommunicated from the synagogue, Jesus searches and finds the former blind man. The Son of Man was another title for the Messiah. Jesus was asking if the man believed in God's promise to send a Savior. When the man responds positively, Jesus reveals Himself as the answer to that promise. The man instantly believes and worships Jesus.

The Pharisees are still following this man around and hear Jesus' statement about "those who see will become blind." In Greek their question is asked in the negative, "We are not blind, are we?" Surely Jesus is not talking about them! They of all people had spiritual insight. They did not need to be judged by Jesus. But that is exactly Jesus' point! They ARE blind because they refuse to accept the fact that they too need forgiveness. Like many in the world today, they believed they were good enough and did not need a Savior!

LESSON ONE: "Progress of Faith." The blind man took a spiritual journey to discover Jesus. He began by believing Jesus was "a man" who healed him (9:11). Later he expressed his belief that Jesus was a prophet (9:17), then "a man from God" (9:33), and finally the Son of Man – the Savior (9:35-37) and Lord (9:38). Some people hear the gospel and are saved in a blinding flash of spiritual light. But for most there is a process moving toward belief. Where are you on your spiritual journey? How can you help someone take their next step toward Jesus?

LESSON TWO: "The Seeking Savior." The blind man didn't go looking for Jesus. How could he? He had never seen what Jesus looked like! Jesus went searching for him! This is a common theme in Scripture. In our sinful condition, we cannot seek for God (Romans 3:10-12). But in His mercy God seeks after us! Jesus said that He "came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10) and that no one comes to Him "unless the Father draws him" (John 6:44). What a comfort to know that our eternal life does not depend on our actions! It is a work of God's grace in our hearts. How is this truth different from every other religion in the world? Have you thanked God for not giving up on you and drawing you to Himself?