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March 17, 2024

John 9:1-41 – Once Totally Blind, by Grace, I Now See!

**Discussion Questions**

1. It is interesting to note that the only named person in this ninth chapter of John is Jesus Christ. How can we see His unfailing sight (Point #1) in this account? How does He view the beggar in contrast to how the disciples view him? What did God promise through the Psalmist in our reading of Psalm 146 and through the prophet Isaiah in 42:6-8, 35:4-6 and 29:18-19? In verse 3, what answer does Jesus give as the reason for this particular healing?
2. The Pharisees were pre-determined not to believe. They had unwilling blindness of unbelief (Point #2). What self-righteous arguments do the Pharisees give for “this man” not being from God? What caused division among them? Our own natural state is denial; we can be both unable and unwilling to believe. What steps do you take when you struggle with believing the Word of God? How can we assist one another in a season of weakness?
3. Look back at Proverbs 29:25. How does this apply to the blind man’s parents? The Pharisees? The man born blind? When have you been tempted to fear man rather than God? What might you respond to someone who says, “I know the Bible says that, but. . . .”? Pride says, “I know, I know, I know,” because we don’t understand the seriousness of our sin. When was the last time you were overwhelmed by divine mercy?
4. The blind beggar may have recounted his story seven times. He was born blind but he was not blind to human nature. How does he respond to the Jews who tell him to “Give glory to God” (verse 24)? What reassurance can we find from the man’s response in verse 25? How does Paul address his position in 1 Corinthians 1:27? Does opposition deepen your resolve in faith? Why or why not?
5. The very idea of giving any credit to Jesus is abhorrent to the Pharisees. Their vitriol is aimed squarely at the One whose name they will not even speak. They see sound doctrine, they see Jesus, and they even see God at work, but they (like we) congratulate themselves on their own progress. What does John tell us in 3:36 will be the result of not believing in/obeying the Son? What does Romans 1:18-25 say about the guilt of unrighteous mankind?
6. Who initiates the contact between the blind man and Jesus? What does Christ do when He hears the man had been cast out of the synagogue? What does the beggar do when confronted with the undeniable miracle of being found in Christ (Point #3)? Can he take any credit for his physical or spiritual sight? Meditate on Ephesians 2: 1-10.