



Uniontown Bible Church

Sermon Guide
April 26: John 9

What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. **Not All Suffering is Punishment:** Jesus clearly states that the man's blindness wasn't caused by anyone's sin, but existed so "God's works might be displayed in him" (v. 3).
2. **Different Doesn't Mean Deficient:** People who learn differently, move differently, or communicate differently aren't problems to solve—they're platforms for God's glory.
3. **Your Story Doesn't Need to Be Perfect to Be Powerful:** The man simply said: "I was blind, now I see." You don't need all the answers to share what Jesus has done.
4. **Following Truth Can Be Costly:** The blind man lost his neighbors' acceptance, his parents' support, and his place in the synagogue—but gained Jesus.
5. **Jesus Finds Us in Our Wreckage:** When everyone else abandoned the blind man, Jesus went looking for him. He still does that today.
6. **The Most Dangerous Place is "Close Enough":** The Pharisees weren't far from God—they were close enough to feel fine, which made them spiritually blind.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Assumptions About Suffering (vv. 1-5).** Why do you think we naturally try to find reasons or causes for people's suffering? What does this reveal about our need for control or understanding?
2. **The disciples talked about the blind man like he wasn't there.** When have you witnessed (or participated in) treating someone's struggle as a "case study" rather than seeing them as a person? How can we change this to think like Jesus when he said, "this is to display God's works." and change how we view people with disabilities or chronic struggles in our church family?
3. **Sharing Your Story (vv. 6-17).** The healed man's testimony was simple: "I was blind, now I see." What keeps us from sharing our own simple stories of what Jesus has done in our lives? Sharing your faith has as much to do with your faith being grown as their faith being found. Have you experienced this? How has telling your story deepened your own faith?

4. The man didn't have all the answers. When asked "Where is Jesus?" he said "I don't know." Why is it actually more trustworthy to say "I don't know" than to make something up? When have you felt pressure to have all the answers?
5. The Cost of Following Jesus (vv. 18-34). The man's parents were afraid and distanced themselves from what God had done in their son's life. When have you been tempted to stay silent about Jesus because of what it might cost you?
6. The healed man lost his neighbors' acceptance, his parents' support, and his place in the synagogue. What are you most afraid of losing if you fully follow Jesus? Be honest.
7. Jesus Comes Looking (vv. 35-38) Jesus heard the man was thrown out and went looking for him. What does this tell you about Jesus' heart? When have you experienced Jesus "finding you" in a difficult moment?
8. When the man realized who Jesus was, he fell down and worshiped. What would it look like for you to respond to Jesus with that level of complete surrender this week?
9. The Warning to the Religious (vv. 39-41). The Pharisees knew Scripture, kept rules, and showed up faithfully—but were spiritually blind. How can religious activity become a substitute for actually encountering Jesus?
10. "The most spiritually precarious place to be is close enough to God where you feel fine." Have you ever experienced this spiritual numbness? What woke you up? Have you domesticated Jesus just enough that he never really shakes you up? In what areas of your life have you tried to keep Jesus at a comfortable distance?

Practical Applications:

1. **Personal Reflection:** Is there an area of your life where you've been sitting "by the side of the road" waiting for something to change? When everything else is stripped away, is Jesus actually enough for you? What would it look like to fall at Jesus' feet in worship over what He's done in your life?
2. **Share Your Story:** Tell one person this week your simple "I was blind, now I see" story. Don't overcomplicate it—just share what Jesus has done.

3. See Someone Differently: Identify someone in your church or community who might feel overlooked. Intentionally engage with them as a person, not a project. Ask their story.
4. Examine Your Comfort: Write down one area where you've made Jesus "comfortable" instead of allowing Him to be Lord. Pray specifically about surrendering that area.
5. Fall Down and Worship: Set aside 30 minutes this week for uninterrupted worship. No agenda, no requests—just awe and surrender before Jesus.