

Fourth Sunday in Lent – 2023

Saturday, 3/18 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/19 at 9:00



Do You Have Spiritual Eyes?

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Text: Selections from John 9:1-41 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends: Please close your eyes *and keep them closed*; now, put your hand in front of your face; can you see it? (No!) Okay, open your eyes. Since the *physically blind cannot see something physical that is right in front of them*, so the *spiritually blind cannot see* the condemning power of sin, the truth of the Bible, nor the saving work of Jesus. **Today, we focus on *physical and spiritual sight!***

- The Setting:** **As [Jesus] passed by** [various people], **He saw a man blind from birth.** ² **And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”** ³ **Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”** ... // God permitted his blindness, *so that Jesus could heal him.*
- The Miracle:** ⁶ **When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,** ⁷ **and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”** (which is translated, Sent). **So, he went away and**

washed, and came *back* seeing. // The blind man permitted Jesus to apply the mud; then he ▶listened, ▶washed, and ▶was healed – *but he never saw Jesus.*

3. **Disagreement About the Man's Identity:** ⁸ **Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?"** ⁹ **Others were saying, "This is he,"** *still* others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one." ... // From ▶blind, ▶sitting, and ▶begging *his whole life* to ▶seeing, ▶standing, and ▶rejoicing *was TOO MUCH for some to believe; it seemed impossible!*
4. **Disagreement About Jesus:** ¹³ **They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind.** ¹⁴ **Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes....** ¹⁶ **Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.** // God established the 7-day week by creating on 1-6 and resting on 7. He did that for our benefit – so we would be sure to take one day every week to ▶rest from our work and ▶focus on Him! BUT JESUS IS GREATER THAN THE SABBATH (see [Matt. 12:1-13](#))!
5. **Pharisees Questioned the Man and His Parents:**
 - a. The man: ¹⁷ **So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet."** // Good answer: God had done miracles through the prophets – *parting the sea, healing the sick, raising the dead, etc.*
 - b. His parents: ¹⁸ **The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until**

they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight,¹⁹ and questioned them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?”²⁰ His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;²¹ but how he now sees, we do not know... Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” ... // His parents either did not know **or** were afraid to say. **Let us NEVER be afraid to confess Jesus to others!**

- c. **The man:**²⁴ So a 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.”²⁵ He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” // He was blind—*seeing nothing*; then healed—*seeing everything!* The CHANGE pointed to the GREAT SIGNIFICANCE of Jesus ▶who He is and ▶what He did!

6. **Pharisees Showed Their Spiritual Blindness:**²⁸ They [said to the man], “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from.” // Moses said to the people: “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you..., you shall listen to him” (Deut. 18:15). The Jewish leaders *should* have been looking for someone GREATER THAN MOSES! John wrote: “...the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ” (Jn. 1:17).

7. **The Man Pointed Out Their Spiritual Blindness:**³⁰ The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes.³¹ We know that God does

not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. ³² Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” ... // It was obvious – *the man who healed him* ✦feared God and ✦was from God. What did Isaiah write about the coming of the Messiah? “Then the eyes of the blind will be opened...” (Isa. 35:5). But sadly, the learned Jewish leaders were spiritually blind 😞.

8. **The Man Met Jesus:** ³⁵ ...finding [the man], [Jesus] said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” ³⁸ And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. // “Son of Man” is another name for *the Messiah, the Christ*. By God’s grace, the healed man ✦saw Jesus, ✦believed in Him, and ✦worshiped Him!
9. **Jesus Wants the Spiritually Blind to See:** ³⁹ And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see [are spiritually blind] may see [be saved], and that those who see [who **think** they are saved – like the Jewish leaders] may become blind [aware of their need for Jesus].” ⁴⁰ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind [aware], you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” // Let us be aware and always embrace Jesus!

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, open many blind eyes, keep us saved!

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