

John: Face to Face with Jesus. (5 of 5) – April 27, 2025

A Man Born Blind: At the Intersection of Physical Blindness and Spiritual Blindness

John 9:1-41

We've been turning to different face-to-face interactions that individuals had with Jesus. Each of these interactions with Jesus left the lives of these different people transformed.

This physical healing confronts us with the truth that there is both *physical blindness* and *spiritual blindness*. Jesus is the only solution to the world's darkness and without a personal relationship with Him we're spiritually blind. This miraculous sign points to and demonstrates Jesus' claim: *I am the light of the world...*

1. Jesus heals a man who was born blind. (vs 1-12)

The disciples reasoned that either the man sinned in the womb or that his parents sinned in some way. *Does their line of reasoning bother you?* It should. In what comes next Jesus corrects them.

Job's suffering was not the result of his sin though his friends wrongly assumed it was. It's cruel to automatically assume that all suffering is the direct result of someone's specific sin.

It wasn't the man's fault or his parent's fault. God has a purpose. Ask – *Am I falling into this error in my attitude toward others? Am I falling into this error, wrongly assuming I'm being punished?*

In chapter 8 Jesus claims – *I am the light of the world...* and in chapter 9 we're face-to-face with an illustration pointing to and demonstrating this claim as Jesus heals a man who was born blind.

This is a powerful sign – it is an amazing demonstration of God's power that points to the truth that Jesus is the long-expected Messiah.

2. This miraculous sign led to an intense controversy surrounding the Sabbath because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. (vs 13-34)

The Pharisees launch into rounds of hostile questioning demonstrating it's possible to be a religious leader and spiritually blind. They reject Jesus' light, choosing to remain in darkness.

They questioned the man's parents who didn't want trouble and wanted to avoid being expelled from the synagogue. They had a case of misplaced fear, they feared people.

They called the man who had been healed in again and begin questioning him and there is a bite to what is said. The questioners were not hearing what they wanted to hear because they were looking for grounds to deny the obvious.

In their fury they admitted the thing they were desperately seeking to deny. The words – *You were born in utter sin...* were a cruel reference to his blindness. They accidentally admitted he had been born blind and could see, they admitted he had been healed which they were trying to deny.

This reminds us of the power of telling our story. He simply testified (vs 25, ESV) – *...I was blind but now I see.* Tell others what Jesus has done in your life.

The Pharisees demonstrated that it's possible to be knowledgeable and religious and also blind. Everything comes down to our personal response to the one who is – *The Light of the World.*

3. After the miraculous sign, the formerly blind man responds to Jesus. (vs 35-41)

This man come to understand Jesus' glorious identity, he got a double dose of Jesus' light because his *physical blindness* was healed and more importantly also his *spiritual blindness*.

What's my response to Jesus? Ask – What has my response to Jesus been? And – How does that need to change today?

There were different responses to Jesus. Some accepted the light and others rejected it. It's my prayer that none of us choose darkness, that none of us choose to remain blind.