

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**John 9: 35 – 41      *Scripture reading Luke 15: 1 – 7***

**‘Seeking and Saving the Lost**

**Stand – Read – Pray**

**Last week we saw the miracle of Jesus healing a man born blind and the formerly blind man put on trial before an unbelieving religious gathering. The blind man whom Jesus healed was brought before the Pharisees partly because of the miracle that had taken place and partly because it had taken place on the Sabbath.**

**So the Pharisees ask the blind man how he got his sight and he told them about Jesus healing him on the Sabbath day. As a result of this there was a division amongst the Pharisees as to who Jesus was. Some said that He could not be from God because He did not keep their Sabbath law and healed on the Sabbath.**

**Others said maybe He is from God for ‘how can a man who is a sinner do such signs; and so they were divided about who Jesus was. They didn’t believe the miracle healing after being told by the neighbors and by the blind man himself, so they call his parents in and they verify that he was born blind.**

**And you remember his parents didn’t want to give out much information about their son after he was healed by Jesus because they were afraid of being thrown out of the synagogue. We looked at that in some detail last week.**

**So after these religious unbelievers hear from the neighbors, the parents and from the formerly blind man himself, they are still not convinced, so they call him back in and ask him some more questions about how Jesus opened his eyes.**

**He finally gets tired of the questions and says to them ‘are you asking me this because you want to be one of His disciples? Well, that set the Pharisees off and they began to ridicule him and justify themselves at which point the formerly blind man gives them a lesson in theology which ends with them casting him out of their presence and presumably out of the life of the synagogue as well.**

**As we have seen over and over again, physical blindness is an illustration, in many cases, of spiritual blindness. Just as this blind man could not see on his own physically, so to, no one can have their spiritual eyes opened apart from Jesus Christ and His gospel.**

**Remember what 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4: 3 – 6 if our gospel is hidden it is hidden to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the LIGHT of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should SHINE on them ... for it is God who commanded light to shine out of the darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

**That is why people don't understand the truth about God and Jesus because the god of this age has blinded their eyes. They are spiritually blinded until the gospel of the glory of Christ shines on them and God opens their eyes.**

**That is what Paul said to Agrippa in Acts 26: 18 when he was telling him about what God has called him to do in ministry. He said to open their eyes in order to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Christ.**

**Well, Jesus hears about what happened to the formerly blind man and that is where we want to pick it up today starting in Verse 35. This formerly physically blind man is about to be healed of his spiritual blindness as well. Look at Vs 35.**

**Verses 35 - 36: Jesus heard that they had cast him out and when He had found him, He said to him ‘do you believe in the Son of God?’ He answered and said ‘who is He Lord that I may believe in Him?’**

**Notice that when Jesus hears about this formerly blind man getting thrown out of the temple it says He found him. Jesus went looking for this man, not the man looking for Jesus. That is the divine initiative of God.**

**Just like when Jesus found him in his physical state of blindness and healed him, He finds him in his spiritual state of blindness and is about to heal him. Because Jesus, as He said in Luke 19: 10 the Son of man has come to seek and save that which was lost. Just like the parable that was read earlier in Luke 15: 1 – 7.**

**Jesus’ mission was to seek the lost and bring spiritual sight to the blind and He is about to do that with this man that He healed from his physical blindness. It is always the divine initiative of God that brings spiritual sight to the lost and spiritually blind. It was like the man with the 38 year infirmity that Jesus healed, out of all the rest and then in John 5: 14 it says that Jesus found him in the temple to talk with him about his soul.**

**Only when Christ seeks after you will you desire to seek after Him. Isn’t that what Romans 3: 11 there is none who understands and there is none who seeks after God. That is why you pray for your spouse, your children, your family and others that God would seek after them and they would not reject Him.**

**Because like this blind man had no capacity to see physically apart from the healing power of God so too the spiritually blind person cannot see the truth until their spiritual eyes are opened by God.**

**When Jesus found this man that He had healed He asks him a most important question: do you believe in the Son of God.**

**Some versions may say the ‘Son of Man’ and both are true. Jesus is identified as both the Son of God and identifies Himself as the Son of man, which is a title for the Messiah, as we have seen before.**

**This blind man has said that Jesus is a prophet, he has said that He came from God, he knows that He is a great healer, but he doesn’t know Him as His Savior and Messiah, so Jesus is about to change that.**

**Jesus wants to challenge his belief and what his belief is in. People believe in a lot of things but if they don’t believe in Jesus for who He is, their belief is not saving belief, as we have seen. Romans 10: 9 – 10 if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and BELIEVE in your heart that God raised Him...**

**John 1: 12 but as many as received Him, He gave the right to become.. The Philippian jailer was told in Acts 16: 31 believe on the Lord Jesus and you...John 6: 40 anyone who believes in Jesus has everlasting life. Acts 10: 43 says whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins... and on, on.**

**This man’s honest response to Jesus’ question is ‘who is He Lord that I may believe in Him’. So Jesus is about to answer that question and reveal Himself for who He is. Look at Verse 37**

**Verse 37: and Jesus said to him, ‘you have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you’.**

**Our Lord is revealing Himself to this formerly blind man much like He did with the woman at the well.**

**Jesus says I am the One you are to believe in, the Son of God, the Son of Man, for salvation. That is what He has been saying all along. John 3: 36 he who believes in the Son has everlasting life.**

**How does this man respond to the revelation of who Jesus Christ is? He says in Verse 38: Lord, I believe. No hesitation, no; well prove it, no; how can I be sure. He just simply says ‘I believe’. He wanted to know who and when he found out, he believed. He put his absolute faith in Christ after Christ revealed Himself to Him and he believed, Christ became the object of his faith.**

**His spiritual eyes were open to who Christ is and he willingly believed. That is the divine miracle of salvation. God choosing this man to open his spiritual eyes and then this man believing and trusting Christ as His Savior. It is the miracle of salvation at the divine initiation of God. Remember in Matthew 16: 13 – 17 where they asked who Jesus was and Peter said You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And then listen to Jesus’ response. Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but My Father who is in heaven.**

**The only way this blind man or anyone can ever recognize Christ is by the divine power of God and His Spirit to open their spiritual eyes to the truth so that they can believe.**

**You know the amazing thing about this: This man who was born blind and unable to see anything all of his life was able to recognize Christ for who He**

**is and believes in Him. The religious leaders who thought they could see everything, couldn't recognize their own Messiah. The evidence of someone who is truly born again, someone whose spiritual eyes have been opened is seen at the end of Verse 38. And he worshipped Him.**

**He saw clearly who Jesus was and the results of that spiritual sight was worship. That is always the case when someone comes to Christ, they want to worship Him. Someone who claims to be born again, claims to have come to Christ in salvation and does not worship Him has to question whether their salvation is genuine.**

**In Matthew 14: 33 when the disciples were in the boat during the storm and Jesus walked on the water and calmed the storm they, it says, worshipped Him saying truly You are the Son of God.**

**Boy, if you compare this to the Pharisees who wanted to stone Him to death all this man wants to do is worship Him. That is because his spiritual eyes were opened and theirs were not and that is how Christ divides, right. You are either a worshipper of Christ or an enemy of Christ, no in between.**

**Is that the spiritual journey of your life? You were once blind and then God opened your eyes and you put your faith and trust in Jesus as your sin bearer and you began to grow, as a new creation, to speak for Jesus and defend Jesus and then you experienced persecution and reviling and judgment for speaking the truth and you are thrown out of the worlds arena and then that drives you to your knees to worship Him.**

**Well, Jesus concludes this chapter by sharing the stark contrast between one who was spiritually blind and has his eyes open to those whose eyes are opened but they are spiritually blind. Look at Verse 39.**

**Verse 39: and Jesus said ‘for judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see and that those who see may be made blind.**

**Jesus says, I came to give sight to those who know they need it and I came to those who think they can see, to show them how blind they really are. Jesus won’t help those who don’t recognize their blindness. That is where the Pharisees are, they would not admit to their own spiritual blindness.**

**It reminds me of the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18: 9 – 14 *Read***

**The judgment of God is going to fall on all those who are spiritually blind and show that blindness in their rejection of Christ, the truth, His word and His plan of salvation. That is what Jesus said in John 3: 18 he who believes in Him is not condemned but he who does not believe is (what) condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only begotten Son.**

**Let me stop and say this; someone who wont believe may not be able to believe in they stay in that unbelief long enough. Look ahead to John 12: 37 – 40 *Read***

**What Jesus is saying in our passage here is that spiritual blindness results in judgment by its own choosing. Then look at Verse 40**

**Verse 40: then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words and said to Him, ‘are we blind also’?**

**These Pharisees asked this question that in the original language would demand a negative response. It could be said this way; you are not suggesting that we are spiritually blind to, are you? It can't be so and the reason is, is because we are the spiritual leaders of the people. We know the law, they don't. We are the teachers of the law, they aren't. You know what that says; they are blind to spiritual truth and they don't even know and they refuse to admit it so consequently they will be judged for it. Then Jesus says to them in Verse 41**

**Verse 41: if you were blind you would have no sin; but now you say 'we see, therefore your sin remains.**

**What Jesus says is; if you knew that you were spiritually blind and were willing to admit to your spiritual blindness then I could help you but you are still in your sins, your sin remains, because you think that you can see. They were blind to their own sin of self-righteous religion of human achievement and didn't need a Savior.**

**He says 'if you were blind you would have no sin'. What He means is; when someone comes to Christ at salvation their sin is done away with, they have no more sin. Isn't that what salvation is; as Psalm 103: 10 – 12 He has not dealt with us according to our sin or punished us according to our iniquities but as the heavens are high above the earth so great is His mercy to those who fear Him, as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sin from us.**

**Revelation 1: 5 says to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. Through Christ we are able to be holy, and blameless and above reproach in His sight as Colossians 1: 22 says. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21**

**But these Pharisees were blind and thought that they could see, they say we see, and were not willing to admit to their blindness when confronted with it, so their sin remains and remember what Jesus said in John 8: 21, 24 that they would die in their sins.**

**When someone is unwilling to admit to their blindness and need for forgiveness, Jesus turns them over to judgment. When someone is willing to admit to their blindness Jesus will heal them and wash them clean to become a new creation.**

**The result of spiritual sight is worship. The result of spiritual blindness is judgment. Where are you at this morning?      Closing Prayer – Gospel**

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**Introduction and Review:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4: 3 – 6, Acts 26: 18**

**Verses 35 – 36:**

**Luke 19: 10, Luke 15: 1 – 7, John 5: 14  
Romans 3: 11, 10: 9 – 10, John 1: 12  
Acts 10: 43, 16: 31, John 6: 40**

**Verse 37:**

**John 3: 36**

**Verse 38:**

**Matthew 16: 13 – 17, Matthew 14: 33**

**Verse 39:**

**Luke 18: 9 – 14, John 3: 18, 12: 37 – 40**

**Verses 40 – 41:**

**Psalm 103: 10 – 12, Revelation 1: 5  
Colossians 1: 22, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21  
John 8: 21, 24**

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