



"I Was Blind, But Now I See"

Close Message Series, Week 5

Scripture: Read John 9

Summary: In John 9, Jesus heals a man who was born blind, a miracle that creates conflict among the Pharisees. Instead of celebrating this man's healing, they focus on the fact that Jesus performed the miracle on the Sabbath, missing the greater truth of who Jesus is and what He offers. This story contrasts two kinds of "sight": the physical and spiritual sight given to the blind man and the ongoing spiritual blindness of the Pharisees.

Jesus is the Light who breaks through our darkness. Just as He sought out the blind man, He reaches out to us in our deepest places of struggle. He sees beyond our pain, calling us to let Him in so His light can illuminate our lives. When we turn to Jesus in these times, He doesn't promise an instant solution, but He does promise to draw near and begin His healing work within us.

The Blind Man's Faith Journey: From Darkness to Light

Many of us go through seasons of deep darkness. These can be times when depression, anxiety, trauma, or grief feel overwhelming, even crippling our daily lives. Sometimes, it feels like a numbness we can't shake, a fog of uncertainty and confusion. In these seasons, we may suppress our feelings, disconnect from reality, or feel tempted to ignore what we're going through. Like the man born blind, we may feel trapped in our darkness.

The blind man's journey to faith is one of growing revelation and courage. At first, he knows Jesus only as "the man who healed me" – a miraculous healer. But as the story unfolds, his faith deepens with each encounter and challenge. Initially, he recognizes Jesus as a prophet when questioned by the Pharisees, a crucial step toward acknowledging Jesus' divine authority. Later, when the Pharisees challenge him further, he boldly claims that Jesus must be "from God," risking rejection and excommunication from his community.

In verses 35-38, after the Pharisees throw him out of the synagogue, Jesus finds him again and asks, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" With humility and eagerness, the man replies, "Who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus reveals Himself fully, saying, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." At that moment, the man declares, "Lord, I believe," and worships Jesus. This final act of worship represents the culmination of his journey—from physical blindness to spiritual sight, from seeing Jesus as a healer to embracing Him as Lord. His journey reminds us that drawing closer to Jesus, even through uncertainty and challenge, leads us into greater light and clarity.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Am I willing to acknowledge the dark or painful areas in my life?** Are there parts of my heart weighed down by depression, anxiety, grief, or trauma that I am suppressing or avoiding? What would it look like to bring these struggles to Jesus and let Him meet me in that darkness?
- 2. Where am I on my journey of faith, and how might I take the next step?** The blind man moved from knowing Jesus as "the man who healed me" to recognizing Him as Lord and worshipping Him. In what ways might I deepen my relationship with Jesus and acknowledge Him more fully as Lord in my life?

The Pharisees' Stagnation in Faith: Blind to the Light

In contrast to the blind man's journey, the Pharisees remain stagnant and unmoved, despite witnessing an undeniable miracle. Instead of allowing this healing to challenge and expand their understanding of God, they cling tightly to their established beliefs. In verses 28-29, their response reveals their pride and rigidity: "Then they hurled insults at him and said, 'You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from.'" Their confidence in their identity as disciples of Moses blinds them to the Messiah standing right before them.

The Pharisees believed they could see perfectly—they were the experts in religious law, the gatekeepers of right and wrong. Yet, in focusing on rules and criticizing Jesus, they became blind to the truth of Jesus' presence and purpose. The scariest place to be spiritually is when we believe we see clearly but are blind to God's work and presence.

In verses 39-40, Jesus says, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees nearby respond indignantly, "What? Are we blind too?" Their confidence in their own "sight" prevents them from seeing the truth about Jesus and their own spiritual condition. Like the Pharisees, we might struggle to admit our need for help or healing.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Am I holding on too tightly to my own perspectives or routines?** Are there established beliefs or practices in my life that might be preventing me from seeing God's work in new ways? How open am I to God challenging and expanding my understanding?
- 2. Ask, "Am I blind, too?"** Do I struggle to see my own need for help or healing? Like the Pharisees, am I so confident in my spiritual "sight" that I may be overlooking areas where I need God's intervention, guidance, or correction?
- 3. Are there moments I prioritize rules or routine over relationship with Jesus?** In what ways do I focus on "doing things right" or keeping up appearances rather than authentically drawing close to Jesus and growing spiritually?

Prayer

"Lord, help me to see clearly. In my darkest places, my anxieties, and the moments I feel numb, open my eyes to Your truth. Remove any blinders of pride, fear, or distraction, and help me to recognize where I need Your healing touch. Give me the humility to accept Your guidance, the courage to let Your light fill my life, and the strength to seek help where I need it. May I not only see but also follow You more closely each day. In Jesus' name, amen."