

# In The Beginning Was The Word

## John 9:35-41

### **INTRODUCTION: JESUS TEACHES ABOUT SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS**

This is an account of what you don't see that is important. It is not what you can see that is important, but what you can't see which is important.

The Apostle Paul reminded the Hebrews that believed that it was important to believe God at His word even though they could not see Him.

Spiritual blindness is a faith lesson that the bible teaches us.

- **Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
- **Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

Hebrews 11 is what Jesus was telling the religious rulers and those unbelieving Jews who were questioning his miracle of healing the blind man.

Having spoken on the last Lords day, which was only last week Sunday, about the Religious leaders questioning the Blind man. Today we are going to look at what Jesus teaches us today about spiritual blindness in the same context as not being able to see physically.

It is the same as what Jesus taught the religious leaders in the temple after that Jesus had also healed the blind man from his blindness, when Jesus restored his sight.

Blindness in the scriptures is often used in a spiritual sense in losing sight of who God is.

It is also used in the context of not excepting what God says, and it is also used to show a person's spiritual condition in not being able to see the light of the Lord. The salvation that Jesus brings.

This is what the Apostle Paul writes in the scriptures of Romans 11:25. That blindness in part has come upon Israel. They are still blind because they wear the veil upon their faces and cannot see clearly. So blindness "in part", partially blind they cannot see the truth. They will only come to see clearly when that veil is lifted from their faces, and that is what the Apostle Paul for us in the scriptures of Romans 11:25.

### **Romans 11:24-26**

<sup>24</sup> For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

**<sup>25</sup> For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**

<sup>26</sup> And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

This is for the future event still to come. Jesus is not finished with the Jews yet. There will come a time in the future when God's people will turn to him when the veil is lifted off from their faces. Many out of Ethnic Israel will still turn to God in the future Paul tells us.

Notice what the scripture has to say on the matter now in our text this morning.

**<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?**

1. This man was cast out of the Temple. The Jews had simply cast him out from their fellowship for believing in the truth. For believing in Jesus as God he was cast out of the Temple just as they had cast out Jesus from the Temple.
2. Notice that it was Jesus who heard that this blind seeing man was cast out. Nobody had to tell him that. Jesus had heard from the source of the problem itself. The Jews. For the Jews had made it public, as they said they should.
3. Well notice what Jesus has to say about those in the future who do not turn to Him in the last days, that he will cast them out.
4. Just as the Jews and not just the Jews. But just as the Jews would cast out people from their fellowship, so to will Jesus cast them out in the last days.
5. The only difference is that when Jesus does cast them out, those who are unbelievers obviously, will be not only cast out from his fellowship, but will be cast out into outer darkness. This is place where not even God dwells or would want to dwell.
6. By their choice and by their own admission they will be cast out.
7. Jesus gave and gives everyone a choice to change their ways unlike the Jews who simply cast the believer out.

### **Matthew 8:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the children of the kingdom **shall be cast out into outer darkness:** there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>13</sup> And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

### **Matthew Henry said this in part of his commentary on Matthew 8:5-13.**

- But when the Son of man comes he finds little faith, therefore he finds little fruit. An outward profession may cause us to be called children of the kingdom; but if we rest in that, and have nothing else to show, we shall be cast out.

In the scripture here Jesus is talking about those who think that they are the children of the kingdom, and that they can just by their own admission walk into the kingdom of Heaven sit down with the true children of the kingdom like Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob will not be allowed to do so. They will be thrown out. They will be treated in the same way that Jesus was thrown out of the Temple.

Notice that it was Jesus who went looking for the blind seeing man, and when he had found him the only question that he now asked of him was, **Dost thou believe on the Son of God?**

- Notice that God is more importantly interested in our salvation than anything else on this planet?
- Jesus mission was to seek and to save, that which is lost.

**Luke 19:10** For the Son of man is come **to seek and to save** that which was lost.

### **The age old question of who is Jesus is best answered by the Lord Himself.**

- When the Apostle Peter was asked by Jesus who he was, he said this in Matthew 16.

### **Matthew 16:1-17.**

1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

<sup>2</sup> He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

<sup>3</sup> And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

<sup>4</sup> A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

<sup>5</sup> And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

<sup>7</sup> And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

<sup>8</sup> Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

<sup>9</sup> Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

<sup>10</sup> Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

<sup>11</sup> How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

<sup>12</sup> Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

<sup>14</sup> And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

<sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

<sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

The poor blind man had not seen these miracles neither had he been with Jesus at all like the disciples. Yet he was prepared for the truth.

<sup>36</sup> He answered and said, **Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?**

1. As a result he answered and said the following in earnest of know for sure who the Son of God was, because he was ready to believe.
2. When asked Jesus the question, he had not yet put two and two together yet. Remember this was a blind man, who for the very first time in his life could see.
3. He knew Jesus as Lord, but until this point he had not made the connection with Jesus being the Son of God.
4. This is the very question that so many people who want to be Christians either struggle with or simply have never been taught this. This is true of many ecumenicals, like the Jehovah Witnesses, and Catholics to name only two.
5. It took Jesus to tell him direct, because so many people had already lied to this man, and being blind made it even more difficult to make the connection.
6. Without the true word of God, people are misled and remain blind in their sins.

<sup>37</sup> And Jesus said unto him, **Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.**

1. Notice what Jesus said. Jesus said that **HE** is the one that he is seeing, and **HE** is the one that he is talking to.
2. It was not like the Jews who had previously misled him, that had kept this man in darkness literally physically and spiritually.
3. It was not like the Jews who had blamed his blindness on his sin, and therefore cast him out of the temple. (John 9:34).

**38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.**

1. After being presented the truth, you have a choice. Everybody has a choice.
2. This man chose to believe the truth. He chose to believe that Jesus was God.
3. He chose to believe that God could do even a greater miracle in him, which was even greater than the restoration of his sight.
4. And now when he has put two and two together he can finally call Jesus Lord. He can now fully associate that Jesus is Lord, and that Jesus is the Son of God.
5. What makes the response to believing that Jesus is who He says He is? It is simply Faith. Others will not believe, because they do not have the faith.

**39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.**

1. A blind person is a person who is spiritually blind and has not embraced the truth of Jesus.
2. A sightseeing person is a person who has heard every other religious experience and they have not embraced the gospel.
3. The judgment that Jesus is referring to here is not the final judgment but, the judgment whereby the Jews themselves can judge whether they want to receive the truth or not.
4. This is what John said of Jesus in John 15:22.

**John 15:22**

If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.

5. The Jews as a result were now put in a place of judgement to judge themselves. Jesus brought about that judgement.

**40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?**

1. In the context the Pharisees had missed the point.
2. Their interpretation of the parable was incorrect.
3. Yes they were spiritually blind but this was not the parable that Jesus meant.
4. Look what happens when Jesus answers them.

**41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.**

1. In retrospect of the blind man that was blind, his eyes were open spiritually.
  2. The Pharisees whose eyes are open are in fact blind spiritually.
  3. Surely a place on words but a real fact of blindness spiritually. If a blind man is blind you can open his eyes to make him see. But a seeing man who sees you cannot open his eyes to see if he already sees that's the contrast.
- It like the expression none is as deaf as those who don't want to hear.
  - Likewise no one is a blind as those who don't want to see.

**Just as John preached of Jesus being the Messiah, so to did the other Gospels.**

**Mark 1:1-2**

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

1. Spiritual blindness is a disease of epidemic proportion. For which there is only one cure.
2. No chemical or pharmaceutical company can claim its remedy. No man can invent it.
3. There is only one way to cure spiritual blindness. And that is Jesus Christ.

PRAYER.....CLOSE