

### Introduction

You wake up in the morning. You yawn. Maybe cough. You open your eyes. You look around – is it morning? What time is it? You can see. Most of us just take that for granted. Except for those who are blind or severely visually impaired, most of us can say, "I see." Today we focus on man who from birth had to say, "I can't see," but after meeting Jesus could say, "I see." Let's take a closer look.

### John 9:1-7

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup> "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So, the man went and washed, and came home seeing...."

### A Man Born Blind

Jesus disciples asked a question that revealed an attitude of many in that time: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Don't some people think the same thing today? "If I or someone else is suffering, it must be because I or they committed some sin!" If I have committed a crime and end up in jail, this is true. But the Lord allows law-abiding, godly people to experience accidents, to become ill, or lose loved ones, not because of some specific sin, but to help us grow, and to show his glory by helping us get through those times and work them for our good. To show God's glory was the reason God allowed the man to be born blind. In healing this man Jesus was going to show his glory as true God by not only giving this man his physical sight, but also spiritual sight so he could see and believe in Jesus as his Savior and be saved.

### Jesus – All about Bringing Salvation

Jesus is all about saving people. That's why he came – to seek and save the lost. This man was not only blind, he was lost. So, Jesus emphasized to his disciples the importance of doing mission work while they could. "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (v. 4,5)

Jesus emphasizes to us the importance of recognizing those around us who do not believe. He wants us to pray for them, patiently love them, and as we have the opportunity, to tell them about Jesus and why they need him. We only have so long to witness to others. They only have so long to be witnessed to. Life is that time.

### Jesus Heals the Man

If you go to the eye doctor for treatment, he or she may use medications or laser treatments, but I doubt whether they will put saliva and mud in your eyes. But Jesus did. When the man washed, he could see. Obviously, it wasn't the mud or water that gave his man his sight. This miracle was a show of God's power in the person of Jesus. Jesus showed his glory and healed the man. He could say, "I SEE!"

Doesn't this remind us of who Jesus is – the Son of God, all-powerful, loving and compassionate? This account shows us that Jesus has the holiness and value to be our Savior. This account reminds us that when we pray to our Heavenly Father through Jesus, he has the power to give us access to our Heavenly Father. When we have problems and ask for his help – like now with the Coronavirus - Jesus has the power and compassion to help.

Because of Jesus, the blind man could say, "I SEE!" But he couldn't yet say "I see" in faith. Neither could the Pharisees.

### John 9:13-17- The Pharisees

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So, they were divided. <sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."

If this miracle happened here today, wouldn't this be an "ah-hah moment"? But not for the enemies of Jesus who were lurking everywhere and were looking for opportunities to get rid of him. Previously Jesus had told them that they were lost and of the devil. Now they were really upset with Jesus because he healed the man on the Sabbath. Some doubted that he was from God. They couldn't say, "I see ..." in faith.

The Pharisees were self-righteous and really into themselves. They thought, "We know better!" Sometimes don't the devil and our sinful nature deceive us into thinking the same thing? God says, "Put me first." But our sinful nature thinks, "I know better ... me first!" God says, "Love others, even enemies." Our sinful nature may respond, "I know better. I'll love those who deserve it." God says, "Be married, then live together." Our sinful natures say, "I know better. We'll live together, then get married." God says, "Trust me." Our sinful nature says, "I know better. I'll trust me." God says, "Worship me and give me first-fruit offerings." Our sinful nature says, "I know better. I'll worship me. I get the first and the best." Sin affects us with the same damnable attitudes as those of the Pharisees.

John further reports on the Pharisees: "Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." (v. 17) The man could say physically, "I See ..." But Jesus would open the man's spiritual eyes to see that Jesus was much more than just a prophet.

### John 9:35-41 - Spiritual Sight

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him ..." After questioning the man whom Jesus healed, the Pharisees threw the man out of the synagogue. Jesus heard about it and found the man. In so doing this shows that Jesus cares not only about people's physical needs, but especially about their spiritual needs. He cares for us for both time and eternity.

When Jesus found the man, Jesus helped him to say, "I See" spiritually. "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him." Not only did Jesus change the man's vision so he could see as went about life, Jesus changed the man's soul so that he could see Jesus as his Savior and have eternal life.

### Blindness & Sight

Probably a little later on Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

What Jesus was getting at was that as a result of his coming, people who were spiritually blind, by God's grace and the power of the gospel, would see Jesus as their Savior, believe in him, and enjoy God's forgiveness. On the other hand, there would be those like the Pharisees who thought they were spiritually sighted, who in their spiritual blindness would reject Jesus and in so doing would remain spiritually blind.

### We/Us

When we sing "Amazing Grace," in stanza 1 we sing, "I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see." Do you realize how true this is?

When we came into the world, we were spiritually blind. The devil had spiritually blinded us with sin. We could not see God for who he is. We couldn't see Jesus for who he is – our Savior.

But in his great mercy, Jesus brought us into his spiritual surgery suite, and through the gospel gave us the Holy Spirit who gave us spiritual sight. The Holy Spirit used the message that Jesus is the Son of Man, the Messiah, to see Jesus as our Savior.

Now we see Jesus as our Substitute who perfectly kept God's law for us. Now we see Jesus as the precious Sacrifice whose suffering and death paid for our sins. Now we see Jesus' resurrection as proof that God has forgiven us and sees us as innocent. Now we see Jesus in our lives everyday giving us reason with his love to live for him, providing us purpose in life with his Great Commission. We see Jesus giving us help and strength when we need them. Now we see heaven as our home and the resurrection as the renewal of our bodies. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus has enabled us to not only say, "I SEE ..." physically, but also in response to the gospel, "I see ..." spiritually.

But because of our sinful nature, we at times develop spiritual cataracts and glaucoma so that we don't always see clearly God's will for our lives, our sin and need for a Savior. We don't always see that Jesus who saved us, will also take care of us. So regularly we need to let Jesus, the Great Ophthalmologist, examine and correct our sight as we hear God's word, law and gospel. Through them the Holy Spirit shows and convicts of sin. But then he focuses the eyes of our soul on Jesus for comfort and peace, for purpose and power So let Jesus examine and correct your vision daily as you devote yourself to God's word, weekly as you worship, and as you frequently receive Holy Communion. Let Jesus correct your sight so you not only can say, "I SEE" your eyes, but also with your soul.