



Calvary of Albuquerque

Got Any Blind Spots? - John 9:35-41

From the Series, Believe:879

By Pastor Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

When you drive, you encounter "blind spots"—it could be part of your own car or it could be a tree that hides traffic on the other side. Those blind spots hinder both progress and ultimately, safety. When Jesus healed a blind man in Jerusalem, the same man was also healed of his spiritual blindness. But others who thought their spiritual perception was keen were as blind as a bat! As we consider this story, can you think of any blind spots in your spiritual journey?

OUTLINE

- I. The Most Humbling Reality—God seeks for US (v. 35)
 - A. Rejection by Earthly Religionists
 - B. Accepted by Heavenly Representative
- II. The Most Important Priority—That We Believe (vv. 35-37)
 - A. Question about Faith
 - B. Question about Identity
- III. The Most Obvious Certainty—Because We Worship (v. 38)
 - A. Affirmation
 - B. Adoration
- IV. The Most Sobering Mystery—The Blind See; The Seeing Don't (vv. 39-41)
 - A. Two Kinds of People
 - B. Two Kinds of Preference



Making it More than a Sermon:

1. What's the one blind spot in your life? How is Jesus correcting it?
2. Why did Jesus wait until the man was ostracized before He sought him out?

DETAILED NOTES

Topic: Belief

Keywords: believe, belief, blindness, Pharisee, synagogue, worship

When you drive, you encounter "blind spots"—it could be part of your own car or it could be a tree that hides traffic on the other side. Those blind spots hinder both progress and ultimately, safety. When Jesus healed a blind man in Jerusalem, the same man was also healed of his spiritual blindness. But others who thought their spiritual perception was keen were as blind as a bat! As we consider this story, can you think of any blind spots in your spiritual journey?

- I. The Most Humbling Reality—*God seeks for US* (v. 35)
 - A. Rejection by Earthly Religionists
 1. Blind man cast out of the synagogue
 - a. Kicked out of Jewish life altogether; spiritually and socially
 - b. Three levels of being cast out
 - i. Stay in your house, isolated for one week
 - ii. Nidui - Publicly reprimanded, isolated for 7-30 days
 - iii. Cherem - Indefinite, cast out for life
 2. It is a privilege to be cast out of some places

- a. Martin Luther - believed in the Bible
 - b. John Calvin
 - B. Accepted by Heavenly Representative
 - 1. Jesus found him
 - a. Kicked out of temple - Lord of the temple goes to find him
 - b. Rejected by man's religious-Son of God from heaven finds, accepts him
 - 2. Rejected on earth, accepted in heaven -Alexander Maclaren
 - 3. Jesus style
 - a. "whoever comes to me, I will by no means cast out"-John 6:37
 - b. "the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."-Luke 19:10
 - c. Leave the 99 sheep for the sake of one wandering sheep-Matthew 18:12-14
- II. The Most Important Priority—*That We Believe* (vv. 35-37)
 - A. Question about Faith
 - 1. You! Do you believe? -arrest attention; focus and emphasize spiritual need
 - 2. Jesus targeted those He healed so that He might be glorified and others might believe in Him
 - 3. Faith is more valuable than health. -Matthew 5:29
 - B. Question about Identity
 - 1. The man had been waiting his whole life for Messiah
 - a. Show me that I may believe
 - b. Ready to believe
 - 2. Highest priority is that you believe in Jesus Christ -John 3:16
 - 3. Believe-not to acknowledge God exists, but to commit to, rely on, adhere to
 - a. C.H. Spurgeon-98 percent of the people he met— including the criminals he visited in England's prisons—told him that they believed the Bible to be true. But the vast majority had never made a personal, life-changing commitment to Jesus Christ. For them, "believe" was not an active verb.
- III. The Most Obvious Certainty—*Because We Worship* (v. 38)
 - A. Affirmation
 - 1. Lord I believe
 - 2. Belief is the beginning of the spiritual journey
 - a. Jesus a man -John 9:11
 - b. Jesus a prophet -John 9:17
 - c. Jesus the Son of God-John 9:38
 - B. Adoration
 - 1. The formerly blind man worshiped Jesus as God
 - 2. Natural Progression
 - a. Blind to spiritual truth; don't even know it
 - b. Jesus opens eyes; you believe
 - c. Enter life of purposeful worship
 - 3. Over time our passion and thankfulness can decrease-Revelation 2:4 (*Are We Losing Our "Oh!"?*-A.W. Tozer)
 - 4. Believing is proof that he found you; worshiping is proof you believe; obeying proves you've been worshiping
- IV. The Most Sobering Mystery—*The Blind See; The Seeing Don't* (vv. 39-41)
 - A. Two Kinds of People
 - 1. Spiritual sight comes to those who confess they can't see
 - 2. Blindness is a condition of those who arrogantly claim they can see just fine without Jesus-
 - B. Two Kinds of Preference
 - 1. Spiritual sight comes from believing in Him
 - 2. Unwillingness or inability to grasp spiritual truth
 - a. The way, the truth, the life -John 14:6
 - b. The way is narrow

Figures Referenced: Francis Jane Crosby; Martin Luther; John Calvin; Alexander Maclaren; C. H. Spurgeon; A.W. Tozer; Helen Keller

Cross References: Matthew 5:29; Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 19:10; John 3:16; John 6:37; John 9:11; John 9:17; John 14:6; Revelation 2:4