

## Are We Blind?

Scripture: John 9:1 – 41 (In parts: 1 – 12, 13 – 34, & 35 - 41)  
10/10/21

Faith does not require a miracle but it requires us to only believe that Jesus is who he claims to be. Let me repeat that - Faith does not require a miracle but it requires us to only believe that Jesus is who he claims to be.

(Read John 9; 1 – 12)

The blind man in our scripture story today confuses many including me! The disciples assume at first that the sins the man or his parents have committed have left him blind. Yet Jesus explains to them and us that the blind man was born blind in order to reveal the light of God.

So Jesus then spits in the dirt and made some mud and he applies it to the blind man's eyes. Jesus then tells him to go to the pool of Sent so that he may wash off the mud. The blind man does this and he then can see!

(Read John 9:13 – 34)

After the man's sight is restored – the Jews, Pharisees, and neighbors gathered there struggle to comprehend the healing. They ask each other – 'How can he now see?' Even the blind man's parents are also at a loss. They have witnessed a great miracle but yet they still ask – 'How can this be?'

The blind man who now can see is repeatedly harassed until he is eventually ousted from the synagogue. The newly seeing man can say only that it is unheard of a blind man being healed and gaining sight. He shares that it must be from God.

Yet the newly seeing man does not recognize Jesus as the Son of God. Yet the blind man who can now see does not recognize Jesus as the Son of Man. It seems that the healing is not enough for him.

(Read John 9:35 – 41)

When finding Jesus again, the man who can now see must have his questions answered because he can see but not totally yet.

Jesus asked the seeing man this– ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ The formerly blind man answered – ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ Jesus answers – ‘You have both seen Him and He is the One who is talking with you!’ The seeing man now can see totally because he answers Jesus – ‘Lord, I believe!’ and he worshipped Jesus.

It is only when the newly seeing man receives answers to his questions does the opportunity to believe become clear.

How often do we witness a miracle, large or small, but yet we still have questions about our faith in the unseen Christ. How often are we like the seeing man who has been healed but yet he still does not believe? How often do we have questions about Jesus being the Son of God?

Now let us look at the Pharisees gathered around in our story of the healing of a blind man.

The Pharisees overheard the conversation between the seeing man and Jesus and they wonder if they have somehow overlooked the obvious about Jesus. The Pharisees wonder if they have misunderstood the true nature of sin. They say – ‘We are not blind too, are we?’

Jesus responds to their lack of faith; Jesus says – ‘If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say – ‘We see’ your sin remains’

Jesus is tough on everybody in this story. He is tough on the Jews, his disciples, and the man born blind. Jesus is even tough on the parents of the blind man who are portrayed because of a lack of nerve. It is hard to preach about how tough Jesus is on everyone in the story including the seeing man. But how often do we have questions about the nature and authority of Jesus? How often do we question the authenticity of Jesus' divine healing?

For us who have never experienced miraculous healing, it is important not to generalize the gift of sight given by Jesus. The blind man is healed, but the deeper insight is that faith is given to the seeing man only after Jesus answers his questions after the miracle. The deeper insight is that faith is given to us only when we get our calling and all the questioned are answered for us.

Faith does not require human vision, but faith requires the answers of God. Faith does not require an audition, but faith requires the answers of Christ. Faith does not require a miracle, but faith requires a belief in the unseen because as Jesus told the Pharisees - 'If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say - 'We see' your sin remains'

Let us pray:

May Jesus speak to us generously and so providing answers to our questions. May the Holy Spirit provide clarity of purpose so that we might live into the light of God. May our faith in Jesus not be based on human vision or audition for God love, but based on answers from God and Jesus Christ. May we be blind to this world but may our eyes be open to God's glory. AMEN.