

L

E A

R N I

N G T O

S E E



LEARNING TO SEE



TYPES OF SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS



9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

John 9

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

1. Armchair Philosophers comment and question the situation, but avoid engaging
2. Armchair Philosophers might ruminate and philosophise but don't work to a solution
3. Armchair Philosophers might intellectualise a situation, but don't get their hands dirty

3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

John 9

3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Darkness v Light

And here Jesus says, whilst he is here, he is bringing light. He is being light. He’s not just illuminating in a different room, he is there, right there, present, engaged.

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

John 9

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Literally getting his hands dirty — demonstrating that it's not just about explaining something, it's about living it out. it's about being there, being present, being engaged.

Now if I was a disciple, how would I have reacted?

I would have thought this was a teaching moment, a philosophical theological discussion.



You cannot be a Christian on the sidelines.

You cannot say you follow Christ, then sit in an armchair, praying and asking God to deliver you things like Amazon Prime.

You need to be Living Christ. Incarnational Light. When Jesus is saying, now while he is in the world, the light is in the world, he's saying the same for us — because of His Spirit which dwells in us, because He himself is the everlasting light, we are then called to demonstrate that light.

Relational



8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

11 He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

12 “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

"How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

Comment Truthers

Believe what they want to believe.

Comment and question, but not interested in truth. Only interested in affirming their perspective.

It's a blindness set in by Pride. An unwillingness to see.

He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

12 "Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

The thing is there's no rejoicing, there's no celebration, there's no declaration — HEY, this GUY CAN SEE!!

Only, meh, not sure. Don't believe it. It's not real.

And we have more and more of that today.

So when they're asking, Where is this man? They're not asking because they want to receive, but they're asking because they want to prove their own beliefs. when he says i don't know,



Receiving the truth of God.
Choosing to seek out what is true and
living by it.

Humility



GATEKEEPERS

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. 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."

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.

Let me give you some background on Pharisees. They believed, passionately, that the problem with people's relationship with God, and reason they were under Roman rule, was because of their unholiness. Because of their lack of obedience to the law, that is why the exile came, and that's why people were in the position they were in. So with that intention, they believed they need to push people to follow the law, by creating more laws, to push them further.

In other words, let's use legal means to force behavioural change. Or if not behavioural change, then at least the semblance of holiness.

And so in this situation, they're put into a dilemma. Here's someone, clearly doing something amazing and good, and yet it was done on the Sabbath. Is this breaking the law, or is this something good. because it couldn't be good.

As gatekeepers, they believed that they were the ones to determine someone's place, role, and goodness. It was their responsibility.

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."

They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

Now for this man, he's not interested in getting past the gate keepers — he's only interested in the truth — both of his experience, and of his understanding.

Gatekeepers have no interest in actually getting to the truth.

"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

Now for this man, he's not interested in getting past the gate keepers — he's only interested in the truth — both of his experience, and of his understanding.

Gatekeepers have no interest in actually getting to the truth. They use fear, fear of reprimand, fear of being kept out of the gates, to control the situation.

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

Now for the gatekeepers, they want him to essentially fall in line, to just say what they want him to say. It means they're spiritually blind to the reality of the situation.

But for the man, it's never been more clear — Do you want to become his disciples too? I once was blind but now I see.

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."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

The problem with gatekeepers is they can be blind to the truth of the situation, because they're more focused on what can come through the gates that they've set up.

When we are ruled by fear, or rule with fear

When we act in the pride of our position or our authority we will find ourselves spiritually blinded

When we wield authority at a distance, serving as gatekeepers to righteousness, or goodness. Here the way the church is acting is by saying: You need to do this. Then it's okay. There's this distance. This misunderstanding.



you've received the gift of God, by the grace of God. This man can see again, not by anything he's done, but by the grace of God. If we're making hoops for people to receive God's grace, or we're withholding grace, because we think someone "deserves" it. Then we are destined to be trapped by the gates.



LEARNING TO SEE

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him

Jesus: Do you believe?

Man: Who is he, so that I may believe in him. I don't say I believe, I want to KNOW, the person i believe in.

And then there's this moment, where this loving, almost humorous response of Christ.

"You have no seen him; in fact, he's the one speaking with you!"

It's an invitation to believe. And more than that, Jesus has no problem with this man, worshipping him. There's this loving relationship.

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

We desperately need the grace of God — and when we walk around, judging from a distance, staying disengaged, or just

If you're walking around, thinking that you don't need God, or are greater than him, then you're going to be spiritual blind. But if you are able to constantly realise how blind you are, God can continually heal your sight. There's this need for us to be humble and eager.

"May the works of God be displayed in me"



**RELATIONAL
HUMBLE
GRACIOUS**



this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. The blind man was humble, he was obedient, covered by God's grace, and a willing disciple — in the same way we need to be asking that our lives — we are here, so that the works of God may be displayed in me.