

***“Do You Believe in the Son of Man?”***

**John 9:35-41**

**Sermon Date: January 26th, 2020**

**Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon**

**Prayer**

As you begin your study this week, spend some time praising Jesus for being the “Son of Man,” who came to open the eyes of the spiritually blind and to bring eternal life. Ask the Holy Spirit to use the book of John to open your spiritual eyes even wider in order that you might see the beauty, majesty, splendor, and magnificence of Jesus Christ in even greater measure as you study. As you pray, consider the words of the famous hymn, “Amazing Grace” by John Newton, and make them your own before the Lord:

*“Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound,*

*That saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost but now am found,*

*Was blind but now I see.*

*Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,*

*And grace my fears relieved;*

*How precious did that grace appear*

*The hour I first believed!*

*The Lord has promised good to me,*

*His word my hope secures;*

*He will my shield and portion be*

*As long as life endures.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,*

*I have already come;*

*Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,*

*And grace will lead me home.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,*

*And mortal life shall cease,*

*I shall possess, within the veil,*

*A life of joy and peace.*

*When we’ve been there ten thousand years,*

*Bright shining as the sun,*

*We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise*

*Than when we’ve first begun.”*

**Scripture**

**John 9:35–41 – (English Standard Version)**

***35*** *Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”* ***36*** *He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”* ***37*** *Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”* ***38*** *He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.* ***39*** *Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”* ***40*** *Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”* ***41*** *Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.*

**Handling the Word**

1. This passage serves as the conclusion to the story of the blind man that Jesus healed. Read the entire account leading up to our passage this week (9:1-34) and summarize what happened below.

**Understanding and Applying**

1. Although the man that Jesus healed was “cast out” by the religious leaders, He was sought out and found by Jesus (v. 35). According to what we know from the remainder of this passage, why did Jesus seek this man out? What does Jesus’ pursuit of this man teach us about who He is and how He deals with mankind?

1. Having found the man whom everyone else had cast aside, Jesus asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” (v. 35). Why is that the most important question that everyone must answer in this life? Is it accurate to describe that question, and people’s answer to it, as the dividing line between eternal life and eternal condemnation? Why or why not?
2. In answer to Jesus’ question, the man responded by professing his belief in Jesus (the Son of Man) and then falling to the ground in worship of Him (v. 38). Why is worship the inevitable result of belief in Jesus (Matthew 14:33 and Philippians 2:10)? Why are true belief in Jesus and true worship of Jesus inseparable?
3. Prior to the conversation in our passage this week, Jesus displayed astonishing power when He healed the blind man of his malady and opened his eyes in a physical sense (9:6-7). As astonishing as that is, why is Jesus’ opening of the man’s spiritual eyes (evidenced by the man’s response in verses 37-38) even more astonishing? Why is it always astonishing when the Lord opens the eyes of the spiritually blind, including yourself?
4. According to the verses below, what does it mean for us to be given spiritual sight like that which was given to the man in this story?

John 8:12 –

2 Corinthians 4:1-6 –

Ephesians 5:7-11 –

Colossians 1:9-23 –

1 Peter 2:9-10 –

1. In contrast to the formerly blind man’s positive response stands the response of the Pharisees, who were entrenched in their spiritual blindness (verses 39-41). What do we learn about their spiritual condition from both their response to Jesus and His response to them in verses 39-41? How would you describe the differences between the blind man who now sees and the seeing Pharisees who remain spiritually blind?

1. The pride of the spiritual leaders prevented them from hearing what Jesus was teaching and admitting their need of Him (Matthew 23:16-26, Luke 18:11-12, 1 Corinthians 1:26). They were not really asking Jesus if they were “also blind” in verse 40—they were making it obvious that they did not consider themselves to be blind at all. Why does spiritual pride always dull us and impede our ability to clearly see spiritual realities and our true spiritual condition (refer to Matthew 13:13-15 for help with your answer)?
2. How can we tell whether or not we possess a similar kind of spiritually blinding pride? What are the ways this spiritual pride manifests itself in our lives today?
3. What has the Lord used in your life to break down your spiritual pride and open your eyes, spiritually speaking, to your true need of Him?

1. What glorious truths about Jesus, His grace, or the gospel in these verses lead you to worship Him? As you finish your study, spend a few minutes worshipping Him for the truths you listed.

*“Take heed to your relationship with Jesus Christ. Your relationship to him is not inconsequential. How you respond to him determines your destiny. Will you reject him? Or will you believe? The story of the blind man is told so that you and I might be like the blind man and believe on Jesus, rather than being like the Pharisees.”*

*James Montgomery Boice*