

“Now I See”

John 9

Tate Cox

Media Reference Number GSX842

Wednesday September 23, 2026

Introduction:

Tonight, we are going to be considering a very notable miracle of Christ. Certainly, every miracle is notable, which Jesus did countless of.

John 21:25

²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Nonetheless, the miracle we’re focusing on tonight is one that tends to jump off the page to me every time I read it.

As you can likely tell based on our title for this evening, we are going to be meditating upon the miracle of Jesus healing a blind man.

But I would argue that there is so much more to see here in John 9 than just the physical opening of this man’s eyes. As we will see, we are also going to learn about spiritual sight and spiritual blindness.

READ JOHN 9:1-41

PRAY

1. Seen By The Savior (vs 1-7)

Right off of the bat, here in the very first verse of our text, we already can observe some amazing things.

For context’s sake, Jesus has just escaped being stoned by the religious leaders because He’d just declared Himself to be God.

John 8:58–59

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

⁵⁹ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

And so, as Jesus is passing by, He observes a blind man, who likely would've been sprawled out leaning against a wall, begging those who were passing him to help him.

We are told of this blind beggar that he was a man. I point this out to not emphasize his gender but his age. We're not told how old he was, but the word that is used is "man", not "boy". Due to the fact that we read about his parents being alive and well later on in the text, we can deduce that the blind man couldn't have been too old, but he also wasn't too young. I think it's fair to say he was around 25-40.

But an even more important detail to observe is that this wasn't just blind, he'd been blind since birth. It wasn't that he used to be able to see and then became blind as a result of some freak accident (head trauma, foreign substance in eyes, etc.). All this man had ever known, from the moment he entered into the world, was blindness.

If I were to become blind today, that'd obviously be very tragic. But, with that being said, I've seen some amazing things such as the beautiful faces of my wife and daughter, sunsets at Laguna beach, the Grand Canyon, an untainted night sky from Joshua Tree national park.

Now imagine being born blind and never able to see anything such as what I just said. To say this man's condition was sad is truly an understatement.

Yet, we must understand something important about this blind man: though we might physically see just fine, this blind man is a typification of our spiritual condition. As this man was blind and helpless, so we are spiritually. He depicts our fallen sinful condition. Just like he was unable to do anything to fix his condition, so we cannot do anything to fix our desperate spiritual condition.

But, while it was true that this man could not see, he was seen. And the One who saw him was Jesus.

"saw" – to perceive by sight; to care for and attend to

Matthew 9:36

³⁶ But when He **saw** the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Something crucial about our Lord that we must understand is that the one whom others so easily pass by and pay no mind to is the one whom He sees and cares for.

(Vs 2) The disciples observe that the blind man has caught Jesus' attention and so they ask Him a pretty obnoxious loaded question, "who sinned to cause this man's blindness? Him or his parents?".

This is a dangerous way of thinking, which is why Jesus sets them straight. I hear verse 3 as though He tells them “neither, you dopes”, though I doubt He said it this way.

Jesus then corrects them by telling them that this man’s blindness had a purpose. The reason for it was not rooted in his sin or his parents sin, it was rooted in the opportunity for the glory and power of God to be revealed. His blindness was not caused by God, but it was ordained by God.

Illustration: Nick Vuijic

John 11:4

⁴ When Jesus heard *that*, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

What if God would say to us regarding our trials, “You’re not in this because you’ve done something against Me! I simply want to allow My glory and power to be revealed through your life!”?

What a change in perspective this is! What if we started seeing our trials in this light? What if God has you in the crucible so that both you and others can see His hand at work?

In **verses 4 and 5**, we see Jesus go on to speak to His disciples about His mission to accomplish the will and works of His Father while it was still day.

The “day” that Jesus had in mind was the time before His appointment with the cross. Until that day would come, Jesus was utterly committed to doing as much work for the Father as He could.

Should we not also have this same mentality with our own lives? Should we not do as much work for God’s kingdom while it is still our “day”, before we arrive at the end of our life? I think so!

Philippians 1:21

²¹ For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

(Vs 7) Following this interaction with His disciples, Jesus shifts His focus solely upon the blind man. Our Lord goes on to do something quite extraordinary.

Jesus spits upon the dirt, forms clay, and smears the clay over the eyes of the blind man. After this, He commands the blind man to go and wash in the nearby pool of Siloam.

The pool of Siloam has an incredible history and symbolism to it. It was originally built by King Hezekiah. It was located close to the temple and was used by the Jews for purification. In rabbinical teachings, it was referred to as “the Messiah’s pool”.

The man's response to Jesus is arguably equally as extraordinary as what Jesus did to him. We do not read of any questions, hesitations, or anything of such sort. What we do read is that he simply obeys Jesus from a place of faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7

⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight.

And so, after obeying Jesus by going to the pool of Siloam and washing himself, the blind man's eyes are opened, and he returns seeing clearly for the first time ever in his life. What a miracle.

2. Scrutinized By the Skeptics (vs 8-12)

Upon receiving his sight and returning from the pool of Siloam, those who knew this man observe his new condition of sight. Their responses are a mix of astonishment and skepticism.

The people who knew the man reason amongst themselves, asking "isn't this the blind beggar?". To this, some say it is him while others say it's one who looks like him (a doppelganger).

I've been told I have a doppelganger named Brock Purdy, who loves the Lord and is playing some pretty good football. But no one can prove whether or not he's my doppelganger or not because no one has ever seen me and him in the same room, just saying.

One thing about the formerly blind man is that he wasn't deaf. He hears the people going back and forth and confirms to them "IT'S ME GUYS". He'd been miraculously transformed.

It is pretty much always the case that, when God does a miraculous work of transformation in you, there will be skeptics. This was the case for the formerly blind beggar, don't be shocked if it's the case for you.

Such was the case for Paul the apostle immediately following his conversion.

Acts 9:10–18, 26-27

¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias."

And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

¹¹ So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹² And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

¹³ Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

²⁶ And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

After realizing that it is indeed the same man they all knew, the people ask him how he could now see. To this, the man doesn’t have much to say other than simply what happened.

(Vs 11) He gives the barebones guy version of the story. No extra unnecessary details, just straight to the point.

The people then wanted to know where Jesus was and the man tells them he doesn’t know.

3. Pressed by the Pretenders (vs 13-34)

In terms of quantity, the bulk of our text tonight is about the man’s interaction with the Pharisees following his healing.

Jesus referred to the Pharisees as “hypocrites” on more than one occasion. The word hypocrites translates to mean “pretenders”, hence the title of this point.

The formerly blind man is brought to the religious leaders of Israel, and they are informed of his healing.

(Vs 14) A key detail is given: it was a Sabbath day that Jesus healed this man. The Sabbath was commanded by God for His people to solemnly observe. It was intended by God for His people to rest, not work, but the religious leaders twisted the commandment and took it too far.

Jesus had a knack for healing people of the Sabbath. Throughout the 4 Gospel accounts, we read of 7 distinct healings that He performed on Sabbath days. I tend to think that Jesus so often healed on the Sabbath to ruffle the feathers of the religious.

The Pharisees begin their full court press on the man by first asking how he received his sight. To this question, the man tells them exactly what happened, but he kind of gives them a caveman version of the story (He clay, eyes, wash, see).

(Vs 16a) The Pharisees then deny that Jesus was from God due to the fact that He healed on the Sabbath. In their eyes, healing on the Sabbath was breaking the Sabbath; but they were WRONG.

Luke 14:1–6

¹ Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. ² And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”
⁴ But they kept silent. And He took *him* and healed him, and let him go. ⁵ Then He answered them, saying, “Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?” ⁶ And they could not answer Him regarding these things.

(Vs 16b) In response to some of the Pharisees’ wrong conclusion about Jesus not being from God, others chime in and ask how a sinner could perform a miracle such as this.

So, there is a group saying He’s a sinner, not from God, and therefore they don’t believe in the miracle.

Then there is another group who are not so blind to the miracle. They use backwards reasoning which followed this logic “this man is no longer blind, so the Man who healed him must be from God, not a sinner like He’s being accused of being”.

So, there is deep division over Jesus, which sounds about right. We sometimes forget that Jesus said He came to divide...

Luke 12:51–53

⁵¹ Do *you* suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. ⁵³ Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

After arguing amongst themselves, they turn back to the formerly blind man and ask him what he thought about Jesus.

He shares with them that he perceives him to be a prophet. Based on this man’s later interaction with Jesus, I don’t think he is intentionally diminishing who Jesus is by calling him a prophet, but rather he said this because he didn’t have the full picture of who Jesus was just yet.

Following this, the Pharisees begin to doubt whether or not this man was ever really blind (anything they could do to avoid honoring Jesus).

(Vs 18-19) In light of this, they call the man's parents in to validate that he is indeed their son, that he was indeed born blind, and demand they explain how he now sees.

The parents do validate that he's their son and that he was 100% born blind and blind his whole life, but they have no explanation as to how he now saw.

The parents then direct the pressing pretenders back to their son, telling them that he is a grown man and can speak for himself. Their motive for doing this was self-preservation because they knew the religious leaders would excommunicate anyone from the synagogue who even hinted at believing in Jesus as the Christ.

And so, the Pharisees then resume their attacking of the formerly blind man. They demand that he give God the glory (honor/recognition).

What these blind Pharisees failed to understand was that the man had already given God the glory by recognizing Jesus as being the one responsible for his healing.

But the Pharisees can't accept that. They continue to beat the same drum, declaring Jesus to be a sinner and therefore not from God and capable of such things.

It is at this point that we see the formerly blind man utter some words that may be ranked with the most beautiful words to have ever left a human mouth; words that still bless us today, 2000 years later.

The Pharisees are pressing him, demanding that he classify Jesus as a sinner like they were doing. The man simply responds by saying "I don't know if He's a sinner or isn't".

(Vs 25b) There was one thing the man knew for certain: "I used to be blind, but now I see".

When you think about it, this is **the testimony of the Christian:**

- Though we were **blind**, through Christ we now **see!** (John 9:25)
- Though we were **lost**, through Christ we've been **found!** (Luke 15:6)
- Though we were **separated**, through Christ we are now **near!** (Ephesians 2:13)
- Though we were **enemies of God**, through Christ we are now **children of God!** (Romans 5:10, 1 John 3:1)
- Though we were **dead**, through Christ we are now **alive!** (Ephesians 2:1)
- Though we were **filthy**, through Christ we are now **clean!** (Isaiah 1:18)

There was surely a lot the man didn't know, but what he did know was that Jesus had made him see.

But, of course, Pharisees do not give up. They continue to ask him how Jesus supposedly healed him.

At this point, the formerly blind man is tired of their nonsense and so he flips the script on them. He tells them that he already told them and that they aren't listening.

He then asks them a question of his own, "do you also want to become His disciples", which seemed to be asked from a place of holy sarcasm (and I love it).

The man's question really sets them off and they begin to revile him.

"revile" – to use foul and abusive language toward another

(Vs 28) They deny that they want to be Jesus' disciples but declare that they are disciples of Moses.

But this wasn't actually true. They weren't Moses' disciples like they thought they were.

John 5:45–47

⁴⁵ Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

(Vs 30-33) The formerly blind man goes on to give them a better sermon than anything they'd ever preached.

The man actually rebukes them for being so wrapped in not knowing where Jesus was from while they ignored the undeniable evidence that HE COULD NOW SEE as a result of Jesus!

He acknowledges their point about a sinner not being from God but brings it back again to the miracle, declaring that such a miracle could only be done by a man who was from God.

The Pharisees don't like that they are now on the defense and so they respond with an ad hominem and scorn him (that's when you know you really got someone).

They, in their pride, declare the blind man to have been born in sin, which was true, as it is true of all of us; but the way they say this shows that they didn't see themselves the same way. This is exhibit A of their pride and self-righteousness that Jesus so frequently condemned.

They thought this man to be a mega-sinner who had no right to teach them, but in reality they should have listened up.

The end of the interaction between the formerly blind man and the Pharisees ends with them excommunicating him, but that is not the end of the chapter...

4. Found By A Friend (vs 35-41)

Jesus hears of the man having been cast out and so He searches for him.

Isn't this just like Jesus? To search for and find the one that others have cast out?

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

"Rejected by the religious leaders, he was sought by the Redeemer." – **Dr. John MacArthur**

And of course, Jesus ends up finding the man, because those whom He seeks, He finds. (**Vs 35b**) Upon finding him, Jesus asks the man that he has healed if he believes in the Son of God.

The man expresses a true willingness to believe but also a lack in understanding who the Son of God was.

I wonder how many people we know that are in that same exact spot: willing to believe, but not informed of who to believe in. This is why we must preach the Gospel to all.

Jesus goes on to reveal to the man that He was the Son of God. The man responds in exuberant faith in Jesus as the Christ and worships Him.

(**Vs 39**) Following this, Jesus gives a brief but incredibly important teaching about the essence of truly seeing and truly being blind.

Firstly, Jesus states His purpose for coming into this world was judgement.

"His statement that He had come to judge the world meant that He would be the separating One, the One through whom God would judge." – **G. Campbell Morgan**

John 5:22–23

²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

What this means is that what we say about who Jesus is will be that which judges us on the day of judgment.

Jesus goes on to refer to "those who do not see" being made to see. These people are just like the formerly blind man, fully aware of their own blindness. But these people are made to see because they are humble enough to come to Christ and be enlightened/saved.

But there are also “those who see” that will be made blind. These are they that are self-deceived into thinking they have spiritual sight, when in reality they are the blindest of all. And their blindness isn’t curable because they won’t come to Christ. For this, they will be judged.

James 4:6b

*“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”*

The Pharisees hear Jesus saying these things and inquire as to whether or not they are blind. Jesus’ response to them is perfect.

He tells them that if they were blind, He could make them see and forgive them of their sin. This what is what Jesus does for the one who comes to Him poor in spirit.

But the Pharisees were unwilling to do that. Jesus rebukes them by saying that their sin remained because they thought they were able to see clearly on their own.

“To be so self-deceived as to shut one’s eyes to the light is a desperate state to be in: the light is there, but if people refuse to avail themselves of it but rather deliberately reject it, how can they be enlightened? As Jesus said, their sin remains.” – **F.F. Bruce**

Conclusion:

And so, I ask of you all tonight, can you see?

There’s only one way to see and it is through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can fix our spiritual condition of blindness. Thinking you can see without Him is self-deception.

How much of the world falls into this camp? Thinking they’re “all good with the big guy upstairs” when in reality they have not been truly enlightened by Christ.

If you recognize your blindness tonight, believe in the Son of God.

If you have been enlightened by the Son of God, go to the blind and tell them of the One who can open their eyes. Maybe they’re more ready to believe than we might think.

PRAY