

# Thought of Week – Are You Spiritually Blind?

(Week: 2018016) -- By Jim Fannin

## John 9 – The Blind Man Healed

We are reading the story of Jesus healing the blind man on the Sabbath in John chapter 9. You may recall Jesus restored the sight of a man blind from birth. He made clay with his spit and spread it on the man's eyes. Jesus told him to wash in the pool of Siloam.

His healing was so remarkable that a crowd gathered and brought him to the Pharisees. The crowd and Pharisees reached different conclusions after hearing his description of what happened. A few people said Jesus must be from God. Others disagreed. One faction pointed out, since Jesus worked on the Sabbath by healing the man, He could not be from God.

The Pharisees didn't believe the man really had been blind. So, they sent for his parents. The parents swore that he was born blind. They denied knowing how he was healed. The Pharisees questioned the man about his healing a second time. Once again, he explained. The Pharisees were so outraged; they turned their anger to the blind man, ridiculed him and then sent him away.

When Jesus heard out how the Pharisees had treated the man He healed, Jesus sent for him. We pick up in verse 35. (Note: Although I typically use the NIV or the NASB, I am using the Amplified Version here to better clarify the text. Examine other translations as well.)

*35 Jesus heard that they had put him out [of the synagogue], and finding him, He asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

*36 He answered, "Who is He, Sir? Tell me so that I may believe in Him."*

*37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and [in fact] He is the one who is talking with you."*

*38 And he said, "Lord, I believe [in You and Your word]!" And he worshiped Him [with reverence and awe].*

*39 Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment [to separate those who believe in Me from those who reject Me—to declare judgment on those who choose to be separated from God], so that the sightless would see, and those who see would become blind."*

*40 Some Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "Are we also blind?"*

*41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind [to spiritual things], you would have no sin [and would not be blamed for your unbelief]; but since you claim to have [spiritual] sight, [you have no excuse so] your sin and guilt remain.*

There are few important points about this conversation.

1. The man born blind believed Jesus. He came to faith in Jesus because of his personal experience and physical knowledge of Jesus.
2. The Pharisees knew Jesus. They interacted with Him and watched Him in action. They could have chosen, as some apparently did, to believe Jesus was from God. But some chose NOT to believe.
3. In verse 39, Jesus made it clear that people have a choice when they meet Him. They can choose to believe or not.
4. In verse 40, when Jesus answered the Pharisees question about whether they were blind, He cut to the chase. Paraphrased, Jesus tells us that if you are spiritually blind you have an excuse, thus no guilt for your actions. But since you claim to have spiritual sight, you have **no** excuse for the sin that remains in your life.

Jesus words could very well apply to us. We have knowledge of, and experience with Jesus and have chosen to believe in Him. But have we, like the Pharisees, allowed the sin of form and activity to blind us to the deity and person of Jesus, the Son of God who healed us?

In John 9:37 above, we see the reaction of the healed blind man when he realizes he is face to face with God. It is to instantly worship Jesus in reverence and awe. When we meet Jesus face to face in our quiet time, are we like the Pharisees, who have seen Jesus, and claimed knowledge, but missed the deity and word of life spoken by Jesus? Or are we like the healed blind man, overwhelmed with the person of Jesus?

Do we really come face to face with Jesus in our quiet time? Or have we become so spiritually blind that our quiet time or Bible study is just a ritual,

or an empty habit? Has our ministry become a series of activities and schedules such that we have no time to see the scars on Jesus face where he bore our punishment? As Jesus points out, because we have claimed we have spiritual sight, we have no excuse for not reacting with awe and reverence every time we enter God's presence.

As we talked about in another Thought for the Week, "**More Than Your Best**," Jesus agrees with Winston Churchill who once said:

*"It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required."*

In the same way, Jesus commands us to do what is required to elevate our relationship with Him. Avoiding spiritual blindness is a requirement to completeness in Christ. It could very well be one of those things that requires our attention.

We must look inside ourselves and make sure we have not become blind to the awe and reverence Jesus deserves each time we enter His presence. Humble yourself before Jesus this week. Make sure spiritual blindness does not keep you from meeting Jesus face to face and worshiping with awe and reverence.