“I Once Was Blind”

John 9

Red Cross Baptist

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Big Idea: Christ gives **SIGHT** to the spiritually **BLIND** and a **HEART** to **WORSHIP** him.

1. The Transformation (1-7)
	1. According to God’s **Plan** (1-3)
	2. For God’s **Purpose** (4-5)
	3. By God’s **Power** (6-7)
2. The Reaction (8-12)
	1. Transformation is **noticeable** (8-9)
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4. The Application (35-41)
	1. Those who **SEE** Christ continue to **SEEK** Christ(35-38)
	2. Some claim to **SEE** Christ but in reality are **BLIND** to him (39-41)

**Introduction**

 Last Sunday, we tackled the first 7 verses of John 9. Today, we are going to tackle the entire chapter. Last Sunday was much needed. We looked at Christ as the light of the world who gives sight. And we will recap that in our message this morning. Today, I am hoping you will walk away encouraged with the gospel that gives sight to the spiritually blind. This chapter is a fantastic expression of the gospel’s power in salvation. We see this man, born blind from birth, approached by Christ for no other reason except to display God’s work in his life. This is a picture of salvation, today. There is nothing you can do to receive it. No amount of giving, no amount of serving, no amount of obeying can save you. Only the power of Jesus Christ can save you. For most of us in this room, this morning, we were once spiritually blind, unable to see the truths of the gospel, the beauty of Jesus. And Jesus, in his infinite grace and mercy, unconditionally saved us and displayed his power and glory in our lives.

 This chapter encourages me as a preacher. This is why we preach the gospel every single Sunday here at Red Cross Baptist. It’s the gospel that lifts the blind scales from our eyes so that we may be able to see the truth of who Jesus is. But, this is the same gospel that also blinds those who think they are saved but truly aren’t. I heard a quote from one of my favorite preachers the other day. He said that he preaches in such a way that those in the pews who think they are saved but truly aren’t can see the true gospel. Because, let’s be honest, Church, we need to be aware, there are people who attend church every Sunday who aren’t saved. They are Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, deacons and elders, and maybe pastors and staff. They think they are saved because they have it in their minds that God owes them salvation because of their works or even because of how they were raised. We need to be careful with this.

 But what we see here, in John 9, is how Christ gives sight to the spiritually blind and a heart to worship him. That’s our goal for today’s message, what I want you to walk away with, that:

**Christ gives sight to the spiritually blind and a heart to worship him.**

 This story is broken up into four sections. We will look at the transformation of the man, the reaction of the people, the investigation of the Pharisees, and the application of the text. So, let’s jump in.

**The Transformation**

 First, we see the transformation of the man. He had done nothing to receive this miracle. He didn’t beg Jesus for it. He didn’t pay Jesus for it. Jesus didn’t look at him and think, “Oh, this guy has done good in his life, let’s heal him.” This man had done nothing to receive this healing. It is all a part of God’s plan. We see in verses 1-3 how this man was born blind so that God’s work could be made known through him. We touched on verses 1-7 last Sunday and we saw how God knows our problems. He knows our sin and our struggles. He knows all these things and still has grace so that the man may be healed, and he knows all these things about us yet still loves us enough to save us. We also saw that God has a purpose for our problems. He uses them for his glory and our good. And we also saw that this miracle is solely done by God’s power. Jesus used dirt and spit and healed a man’s blindness. And what’s crazy is the fact that Jesus didn’t even have to use dirt and spit, he only chose to. He used what was used in creation to create man, the dirt from the ground, and created a new creation. Then he tells the man to go wash in the pool of Siloam, which means Sent. The Sent One sent the man to wash in the pool called Sent. This is the same water Jesus used in chapter 7 to claim if anyone thirst to come to him. Basically, he’s saying come and wash in me, bathe in my grace, let me wash you clean. It’s beautiful what is being said here!

 Church, Jesus has provided the way that we may spiritually see. He lived the life we couldn’t live, holy, perfect, and spotless of any sin, and died the death that we deserved, paid our penalty for us on the cross as the sacrifice in our place, so that when we come to God, the price has been paid! No more judgment! We can be spiritually healed and brought back to him! We can wash in the pool of God’s grace, the shed blood of Jesus, that washes away all of our sin. This is the gospel! This man has been healed!

 Now that we are caught up, let’s look at what happens next.

**The Reaction**

 Well, the man obeyed and has received sight. He’s more than likely running around the place claiming he can see and the people who have known him are surprised by this miracle, so surprised because they are even asking, “who is this man?”

Look at verses 8-12

We see the reactions of the people around him. And here’s way.

**Transformation is noticeable**.

When we lived in our first house as a married couple, we needed furniture. We probably made $30,000 a year together and we couldn’t afford much. So, I went out to a yard sale one day and found a couch. It was in great shape, was not in a smokers home, still firm, and, only $25. So I got it. Tara came home from work and walked in and saw the couch. I got chewed out. She thought it was the ugliest couch she had ever seen. It had probably every color in it. Something was different in the house, and she didn’t like it. Transformation is noticeable, change is noticeable.

 Can people tell that you are a new creation? We can notice change. From the time I got saved to today I have grown in a lot of areas and still am growing. I struggle with different sin in my own life. But, people should know we’re a new creation because we act differently than the world. We talk differently than the world. We look differently than the world. And quite frankly, we are beginning to look pretty weird, and that’s a good thing! If we aren’t looking weird compared to the world then we may need to examine ourselves!

 What we can also notice about the people’s reaction in John 9 is that

\*\*\* **Transformation is captivating.**

 What do I mean by that? Our transformation should open up the door for us to share the gospel with others. Look at verses 10-12. If we have truly experienced Jesus and transformation, be ready to share the gospel with those who ask why you are different. They notice it and they are captivated by it. I’ve had to explain to people why I don’t watch certain TV shows. I’ve had to explain to people why I don’t do believe in living together before marriage or even sex before marriage. I’ve had to explain to people why I hate pornography and why I stand for the unborn. Because Jesus has done a work in my life, has given me new desires, and a new heart that I may glorify him. Can I tell you who he is?

 The man in John 9 shares with the people about what Jesus did in his life, we must be willing and able to do the same! **Our lives are a sermon that should lead to a conversation.** Could you say that about your life?

 And see this, this man does not have all the answers. This just happened! He doesn’t know fully who it was who healed him, he doesn’t know everything about the guy who just gave him his sight, but he told people about his healing. Understand this, you don’t have to have all the answers in order to share the gospel with people! Tell them how he has changed your life. Tell them what Christ has done in your life, and let God use those words to help others believe.

 Because the man’s transformation has caused such a stir in the people, they decided to bring him to the Pharisees. Uh-oh. What’s going to happen here? This is where we see the investigation of the Pharisees.

**The Investigation**

 The goal of the Pharisees in this scenario is to get rid of this story that this man was healed and to condemn Jesus. The problem they saw in this whole thing, again, is that it was done on the Sabbath. They have their standards. And because Jesus did this miracle on the Sabbath they believed he wasn’t from God because he was breaking the law. Now, hear me say this, healing someone on the Sabbath was not breaking God’s law, it broke the rules that the Pharisees added to the Law. The Pharisees were not willing to overcome these false standards that they have in order to see who Jesus truly is. They would not let go of the law in order to see who Jesus truly is. Their faith was in their works, not Christ’s

 **Overcoming False Standards**

In our own investigation of who Jesus is, we must overcome these false standards. The Law does not save. The Pharisees believe in obedience to the Law brings salvation. It does not save. We must overcome our own false standards we have, church, that attendance doesn’t save, and neither does giving, neither does serving, none of these things save and we must stop relying on them for salvation! It’s only Jesus who saves.

Each question the Pharisees ask the man in verses 13-17, the man comes back saying, and not denying, that this man healed him, and then said that he, Jesus, is a prophet. This man is making a stand with the Pharisees. He’s not going to lie to them, he’s being completely honest with them. But, the Pharisees don’t like it. So, they bring in his parents. Look at verse 18-23. Basically, they said, “Why don’t you ask him, he’s an adult, why bring us into this?” I love how John adds in verse 22 the parents’ fear of being kicked out of the synagogue.

**Overcoming Fear of Man**

Not only, within our own investigation of who Jesus is, should we overcome our false standards, we must also overcome our fear of man. The man’s parents were afraid of losing their right to the synagogue. They were afraid of the opposition of man.

Is there risk today in following Jesus? Yes! Could you lose your job for following Jesus? Yes. Could you lose your friends or neighbors or family for following Jesus? Yes! Could you lose your life? It may not be as prominent in America, but yes.

I wonder if you’ve seen lately the amount of Christians that are being slaughtered in other countries, that are being thrown in prison in China for worshiping, that are being killed in Nigeria for following Jesus. These are people who see Jesus as worth it! They counted the cost and nothing compares to knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! Nothing compares to the riches of his grace and mercy! Nothing compares to following the Savior and they are willing to risk their very lives for it! What did we risk this morning coming to Church? Maybe the possibility of getting rained on, or maybe even in a wreck. But, does coming to Church risk your life, here? Yet, in other countries, it does, and they still worship. Here, if it’s drizzling outside, we aren’t going.

Matthew 10:22 says, “and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

 We see through verse 34 that this man stood firm on what he believed as this stranger healed him and he was willing to be kicked out of the synagogue because of it. Church, we must overcome our fear of man. Give it a few more years and see just how much more hostile this world will be towards Christianity. We are seeing it in the courtrooms. But, let me tell you, Jesus is so worth it. He’s worth the opposition, he’s worth the risk of losing friends and family, he’s worth the risk of losing your job. And, he’s worth the risk of losing your life. Here’s the beauty of the gospel, you may lose your life for the sake of the gospel. By God’s grace, I hope I do lose my life for the sake of the gospel. I hope I die because of what I believe in. But, man may be able to take your life, but they can’t take your salvation. You may not be able to hold onto everything in this life because of your faith, but Christ will faithfully hold onto you.

 Now, we come to the end of the chapter. The end of the story of this man’s account with Jesus. It may be the end of the account in John, but it’s only the beginning for this man. Look at verse 35.

 A couple of things I want you to take away from this message. First:

 **Those who SEE Christ continue to SEEK Christ.**

 Look at verses 35-38.

From the words of Hellen Keller, “Gradually I got used to the silence and darkness that surrounded me and forgot that it had ever been different until she came—my teacher—who set my spirit free.” This man was once blind and now he sees. Christ has set him free. He believes in who Jesus is. He worships the Savior who healed him. This is the man who once claimed Christ to be a prophet, but now, he claims him to be Lord. He is growing in his knowledge of Jesus. 2 Peter 3:18 says, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” We as believers who see Christ continue to seek Christ. We continue to follow him, to grow in him, to seek to not just know more about him, but to know him more.

 Church, in order for you to see and savor the Savior, you must admit your blindness, your need for him. And Church, we must admit this every day. We need him, ultimately for our salvation, and every day for our sanctification. We need him as we fight our sin, as we encounter our trials, as we suffer and celebrate, as we live each and every day to the glory of God. We need him! We need him within our opposition. When people hate us for who and what we stand for, when people seek to harm us because of our faith, when people seek to leave us, we need Jesus. And second,

 **Some claim to SEE Christ but in reality are BLIND to him**

 Look at verses 39-41.

 Charles Spurgeon once said, “It is not our littleness that hinders Christ; but our bigness. It is not our weakness that hinders Christ; it is our strength. It is not our darkness that hinders Christ; it is our supposed light that holds back his hand.”

 Jesus has come to expose our blindness, but the sad reality is that some don’t think they are blind. Some don’t think they need Jesus but that they are owed Jesus. And sadly, there may be some in this room like that, today. The hardest part about preaching in the Bible belt is preaching to some who think they are saved but in reality are not. These Pharisees thought they were, but it was this man, this blind beggar, who truly came out seeing the truth of who Jesus is.

 Church, I don’t know where you stand this morning, but be encouraged that this gospel has the power to open blind eyes to the truth of who Jesus is. For the believer, be encouraged in the midst of opposition, Jesus is worth it. Be ready and willing to share your story with those who ask why you are different. To the unbeliever, I pray the Spirit removes the scales from your eyes, like he did to Paul in Acts so that he could see the truth of who Jesus is.

Like the words from that popular Hymn by John Newton,

“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.” Let’s pray.