

VICTORY IN JESUS



THE BLIND MAN WINS

THE BLIND MAN'S VICTORY IN JESUS — WHAT THAT MEANS TO YOU AND ME ...

REVIEW: We are up to scene four in John chapter nine. Last week we studied the first three scenes which were: The healing of the blind man and the two interrogations that followed.

SCENE 4: THE THIRD INTERROGATION, 9:18-23.

Participants—The parents of the blind man, the Jews ... The parents were brought before the Jews and questioned.

- (John 9:18-23 ESV) The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” 22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) 23 Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

1. The Jews were still refusing to believe the obvious and interviewed the parents hoping to exploit any inconsistencies regarding the miracle.
2. The parents were very guarded in their response because they feared the Jews and directed the interrogators back to their son.
3. Think about the threat in view of the stated purpose of the Gospel of John—if anyone confessed the only truth by which they might have life, then that person would be put out of the synagogue.
 - (John 20:31 ESV) But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

SCENE 5: THE FOURTH INTERROGATION, 9:24-34.

Participants—The man who had been blind, the Jews ... The Jews/Pharisees called the man in for a second time hoping to pressure him into changing his testimony but the man held firm to the truth.

- (John 9:24-34 ESV) So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to

him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” 25 He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 26 They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” 28 And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.” 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” 30 The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

1. They called the man for the second time and tried to get him to change his testimony under the guise of giving glory to God.
2. The man remained firm and drew attention to their refusal to listen to his straightforward account.
3. In replying to the man their anger boiled over as seen in their crazed, damning response.

Truth – The man would soon become Jesus’ disciple.

Lie – They claimed they were disciples of Moses but Jesus had already proved this to be a lie.

Truth – They were right that God had spoken to Moses.

Truth – They did not know where Jesus came from.

4. “*This is an amazing thing*” ... In his answer the man humiliated them as he revealed their foolishness and willful ignorance.
5. Their frustration reached its climax and they threw him out.

They had had enough as not only could they not defeat the truth and logic of Jesus who was literally the Word of God ... but now this man who had begun the day as a blind beggar thoroughly obliterated their pretentious, foolish attempts to discredit Jesus.

SCENE 6: JESUS PASSED HIS OFFICIAL JUDGMENT ON THOSE WHO DO NOT SEE, 9:35-39.

Participants–Jesus, the man, some of the Pharisees ... Jesus found the man after he had been cast out after the fourth interrogation.

- (John 9:35–41 ESV) 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.”

1. Jesus finds the man after hearing that the Jews had thrown him out.
2. Jesus made an official judgment of mercy in favor of the man.

Judgment ... κρίμα [krima /kree·mah/] ... legal decision; the official decision of a court on issues of fact or law; a decree; the sentence of a judge.

A. Jesus led the man to belief and spiritual sight.

B. His just decision was one of mercy.

- (Romans 9:14–16 ESV) What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.
- (Deuteronomy 32:4 ESV) The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
- (Psalm 92:12–15 ESV) The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, 15 to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.
- (Revelation 15:3 ESV) And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King

of the nations!”

C. The truth is that Jesus had chosen this man to be one of his before he created our world.

- (Ephesians 1:3–6 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.
- (Romans 8:28–29a ESV) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.
- (1 Corinthians 1:9 ESV) God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- (2 Timothy 1:8–9 ESV) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.
- (Titus 1:1–2 ESV) Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.
- (Hebrews 3:1 ESV) Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.

SCENE 7: JESUS PASSED HIS OFFICIAL JUDGMENT ON THOSE WHO SEE, 9:39-41.

Participants–Jesus, some of the Pharisees ... Some of the Pharisees were nearby and heard Jesus' words and asked him if they were also blind.

- (John 9:39–41 ESV) 9 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.”

1. Jesus came into this world and made an official decree regarding spiritual blindness.
 - A. That those who do not see may see.
 - B. That those who see may become blind.
2. The Pharisees asked Jesus if they were blind also.

Short answer—Yes.

- A. Their eyes had been smeared over—note the similarities/contrasts with Jesus anointing the eyes of the blind man and the Isaiah text.
 - (Isaiah 44:18 NASB95) They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend.
 - Smeared*** – to stain by smearing or daubing with a dirty substance.
 - (John 9:6b ESV) ... he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud.
- B. They asked with stubborn, rebellious hearts.
 - (Jeremiah 5:21, 23 ESV) Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not. ... 23 But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away.
- C. Although there may have been exceptions, such as with Nicodemus, they do not seem to be sincere in asking the question.
- D. Their insincerity was probably due to refusing to acknowledge their true need.
 - (Matthew 9:12–13 ESV) But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”
- E. Their guilt remains.

CONCLUSION: We have amazing, wonderful, undeniable victory in Jesus ... Here are some of the things we can do to help us live in the reality of that victory ...

1. Abide in and tremble before God's word if we are to know the truth that we need to know.

Only in living in complete dependence on and submission to God in his word and by his Spirit can we be aware of and conscious of the reality of life.

- (Isaiah 66:1a, 2 ESV) Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; ... All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”

2. Stay in front of the mirror.

- (James 1:23–25 ESV) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

3. Do not depend on any outward impressions to evaluate our lives—including our own.

- (Revelation 3:17 ESV) For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

4. Be thankful and abound in the work of the Lord.

- (1 Corinthians 15:57–58 ESV) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.