

## Though I Was Blind, Now I See; John 9:24-25

### I. Can't See

- A. Total Blackout — a TV series game show where contestants tried to complete challenges in total darkness, effectively blind
- B. We were trained how to use our peripheral vision at night to overcome our loss of direct sight
- C. There are people who are born blind, or have spent the majority of their lives without sight due to some accident or illness

### II. Blind

- A. John 9:1–2 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
  1. A common misconception in the first century (and today as well) that physical impairment is God’s punishment for sin
  2. God is not looking to punish us for our sin, but to forgive us!
  3. John 9:3 (ESV); Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.
  4. But we are blind to His efforts
- B. Blind — unable to see; also unable to understand, incapable of understanding (BDAG)
- C. Sin has blinded us to the reality of eternity
  1. Mark 8:34–37 (ESV); <sup>34</sup> And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul?
  2. But for some reason, that I can only attribute to a lack of faith, we trade our soul for the tangible things on this earth
  3. We may be blind to, not completely understand, the idea of eternity — so we trade what we don’t understand for our passions
  4. For Eve it was the passion (or desire) for the knowledge of good and evil and to be like God
  5. Genesis 3:4–6 (ESV); <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
  6. For Herod, it was being equal to God
  7. Acts 12:21–23 (ESV); <sup>21</sup> On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. <sup>22</sup> And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” <sup>23</sup> Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
  8. For Ananias and Sapphira it was the recognition of the people — they wanted to be admired and respected
  9. Acts 5:3–4 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup> While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”
- D. Eternity — a period of time without beginning or end, a period of unending duration
  1. We so completely lack the ability to understand eternity that we cannot even get the definition right!

2. "A period of time" or "a period" denotes a beginning and an end
3. Those who have traded their souls for earthly passions are destined for "eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 1:9)
4. That is death, ruin, destruction without end, with unending duration
5. The sooner we grasp the biblical idea of eternity, the sooner we can see

### III. Now I See

- A. John 9:6–7 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup> and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.
- B. Being born blind, he had no concept or understanding of what it was to see — do we realize the profound effect his new sight had on him?
  1. Could you imagine describing the color, "it is purple"
  2. He could have no concept of that at all — until he can see
  3. Jesus opens our eyes to see what sin did to our relationship with God
- C. Jesus is the truth that sets us free from sin — He cures our blindness so we can see
  1. John 8:31–32 (ESV); <sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
  2. Jesus is the Truth — the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
  3. Jesus is the way to eternal life
  4. John 6:66–69 (ESV); <sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."
  5. Jesus makes these great statements about who He is and what He offers — the Bread of Life, the Light, the Door, the Good Shepherd, the True Vine, the Resurrection and the Life
  6. Mark 14:61–62 (ESV); <sup>61</sup> But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."
  7. With that statement, Jesus guaranteed His death — and our life!

### IV. Eternity

- A. Acts 4:10–12 (ESV); <sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- B. We need to read and understand the truth so that we are no longer blind
- C. Only then will we understand that eternal life is found only in Jesus
- D. "Though I was blind, now I see"