

John Chapter Nine

Read **John 9:1-12** – The Man Born Blind

v.1 “AND AS *Jesus* PASSED BY, HE SAW A MAN WHICH WAS BLIND FROM *his* BIRTH.”

As Jesus walked through the midst of those who would have stoned him, and leaves that area of the temple he sees a man that had been born blind. We see once again that our High Priest is touched by the troubles and afflictions of His people and that he has compassion upon us, especially those who cannot help themselves. As we will see later some think that it is harder to heal someone blind from birth than it would be to heal one that had become blind due to injury or disease. But, as we also know, with God all things are possible.

v.2 “AND HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM, SAYING, MASTER, WHO DID SIN, THIS MAN, OR HIS PARENTS, THAT HE WAS BORN BLIND?”

Why did Jesus’ disciples think that this man was born blind because of sin? Because the Jews believed that man’s affliction, dread diseases, or other troubles were brought upon them as punishment for their sin. We saw this repeatedly during our study of the book of Job as Job’s friends begged him to cease his sin and repent in order for God to remove his affliction.

Job 4:8-9 “EVEN AS I HAVE SEEN, THEY THAT PLOW INIQUITY, AND SOW WICKEDNESS, REAP THE SAME. BY THE BLAST [breath] OF GOD THEY PERISH, AND BY THE BREATH [blast] OF HIS NOSTRILS [anger] ARE THEY CONSUMED.”

It is true that there were times when God punished people for their sin by bringing some affliction upon them. One example is Uzziah, king of Judah, who entered the temple to usurp the role of the priests:

II Chronicles 26:19 “THEN UZZIAH WAS WROTH, AND *had* A CENSER IN HIS HAND TO BURN INCENSE: AND WHILE HE WAS WROTH WITH THE PRIESTS, THE LEPROSY EVEN ROSE UP IN HIS FOREHEAD BEFORE THE PRIESTS IN THE HOUSE OF THE **LORD**, FROM BESIDE THE INCENSE ALTAR.”

Jesus’ disciples believed as well that man was afflicted because of sin.

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v.3 “JESUS ANSWERED, NEITHER HATH THIS MAN SINNED, NOR HIS PARENTS: BUT THAT THE WORKS OF GOD SHOULD BE MADE MANIFEST IN HIM.”

So Jesus corrects their thinking. This man’s affliction did not come because of sin and as we study God’s revelation we can understand why. Sin is defined by God:

I John 3:4 “WHOSOEVER COMMITTETH SIN TRANSGRESSETH ALSO THE LAW: FOR SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW.”

So this man could not have been born blind because of his own sin, because it is impossible for him to transgress God’s law before he was born. Neither would his affliction be as a result of his parent’s sin because God tells us through Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 18:20 “THE SOUL THAT SINNETH, IT SHALL DIE. THE SON SHALL NOT BEAR THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHER, NEITHER SHALL THE FATHER BEAR THE INIQUITY OF THE SON: THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL BE UPON HIM, AND THE WICKEDNESS OF THE WICKED SHALL BE UPON HIM.”

Jesus tells us that this man was afflicted, “THAT THE WORKS OF GOD SHOULD BE MANIFEST IN HIM.”

v.4. “I MUST WORK THE WORKS OF HIM THAT SENT ME, WHILE IT IS YET DAY: THE NIGHT COMETH, WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK.”

The time that Jesus now had to complete the works that God had given him to do was limited, just as our time on this earth to do the works that God has given us is limited. He, just as we also, have to take advantage of the opportunity when it is presented. Just as those who labor for farm for a living, daylight waits for no man. In addition doing these works were a driving force, a passion with the Son of God:

John 4:34 “...MY MEAT IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT M, AND TO FINISH HIS WORK.”

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At this occurrence Jesus probably had about 6 months left of the time that he would be on the earth. The end, characterized here as night, was coming when opportunity to do God's work would end, just as darkness drives the farmer from his fields and the laborer from his work.

v.5 "AS LONG AS I AM IN THE WORLD, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."

Just as the sun gives light and life to the physical world, Jesus Christ gives light and life to the spiritual world. John describes him at the very beginning of this writing as the "TRUE LIGHT"

John 1:9 "*That* WAS THE TRUE LIGHT, WHICH LIGHTETH EVERY MAN THAT COMETH INTO THE WORLD."

And as Jesus had taught them in the temple the day before:

John 8:10 "...I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

v.6 "WHEN HE HAD THUS SPOKEN, HE SPAT ON THE GROUND, AND MADE CLAY OF THE SPITTLE, AND HE ANOINTED THE EYES OF THE BLIND MAN WITH THE CLAY."

His purpose at this time was to emphasize God as a source of light. The blind man had never seen the light of day, much less the light which illuminates the soul. Now he is about to be able to see both.

Christ frequently used the simplest of things to accomplish his purpose. On this occasion he used saliva and dust to make a paste that he applied to the eyes of the blind man. Then he also tested the faith of the one being healed by giving him explicit instructions regarding just how the healing was to be accomplished.

v.7 "AND SAID UNTO HIM, GO, WASH IN THE POOL OF SILOAM, (WHICH IS BY INTERPRETATION SENT.) HE WENT HIS WAY THEREFORE, AND WASHED, AND CAME SEEING."

The pool of Siloam or Siloah still exists. It is located just outside the original site of the City of David, original Jerusalem. Its location, next to the king's garden is given in:

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Nehemiah 3:15 “BUT THE GATE OF THE FOUNTAIN REPAIRED SHALLUN THE SON OF COLHOZEH, THE RULER OF PART OF MIZPAH; HE BUILT IT, AND COVERED IT, AND SET UP THE DOORS THEREOF, THE LOCKS THEREOF, AND THE BARS THEREOF, AND THE WALL OF THE POOL OF SILOAH BY THE KING'S GARDEN, AND UNTO THE STAIRS THAT GO DOWN FROM THE CITY OF DAVID.”

It once consisted of two pools, an upper pool and a lower pool. The lower pool had been lost but was uncovered by excavation for a sewer project in 2005 and positively identified by Israeli archeologists. The name means “sent” and it’s significance in scripture is as a result of Jesus having “sent” the blind man there to accomplish the final act of his healing.

v.8 “THE NEIGHBORS THEREFORE, AND THEY WHICH BEFORE HAD SEEN HIM THAT HE WAS BLIND [a beggar], SAID, IS NOT THIS HE THAT SAT AND BEGGED?”

Those that knew the man couldn’t believe the transformation that had taken place in his life. He apparently was well known. He had been born blind, was now 40 years old and had made his living begging in the temple area. Now he sees and the change in him was so great that those who saw him could scarcely believe their eyes.

v.9 “SOME SAID, THIS IS HE, OTHERS **said**, HE IS LIKE HIM: **but** HE SAID, I AM **he**.”

Brother Lipscomb observes that some men are never satisfied with the evidence that is put before them, even when it is indisputable. They can never be certain of anything. Many that saw him accepted what their eyes told them, but others chose to speculate.

v.10 “THEREFORE SAID THEY UNTO HIM, HOW WERE THINE EYES OPENED?”

This was one question that was of great interest to all. How did this man, born blind, who had never seen the light of day, become able to see? It was a wonderful thing, but totally unheard of that a man born blind could be healed. The understood that this newfound ability could **only** have come from God. In the next chapter that fact confirms the words of Jesus:

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John 10:21 "OTHERS SAID, THESE ARE NOT THE WORDS OF HIM THAT HATH A DEVIL. CAN A DEVIL OPEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND?"

v.11 "HE ANSWERED AND SAID, A MAN THAT IS CALLED JESUS MADE CLAY, AND ANOINTED MINE EYES, AND SAID UNTO ME; GO TO THE POOL OF SILOAM, AND WASH, AND I WENT AND WASHED AND I RECEIVED SIGHT."

The man doesn't seem to know much about Jesus so he simply describes what happened. His healing is such a significant occurrence in his life that his mind is probably still trying to absorb all that this means to him.

v.12 "AND THEY SAID UNTO HIM, WHERE IS HE? HE SAID, I KNOW NOT."

Jesus has slipped quietly away, the blind man doesn't know where he is and most likely couldn't recognize him if he saw him.

Read **John 9:13-34** – The Pharisees' Reaction

v.13 "THEY BROUGHT TO THE PHARISEES HIM THAT AFORETIME WAS BLIND."

There was no doubt in the minds of those who knew him that this man was healed, a miracle had been performed, a miracle that was beyond the capability of anyone or anything known to man, even among those that claimed special powers. The Pharisees' were the most learned men of the country so they turn to them to find answers to their questions.

v.14 "AND IT WAS THE SABBATH DAY WHEN JESUS MADE THE CLAY AND OPENED HIS EYES."

So here we go again. In the minds of these Pharisees Jesus broke the Mosaic law wherein God had consecrated the Sabbath Day:

Leviticus 23:3 "SIX DAYS SHALL WORK BE DONE: BUT THE SEVENTH DAY *is* THE SABBATH OF REST, AN HOLY CONVOCATION; YE SHALL DO NO WORK *therein*: IT *is* THE SABBATH OF THE **LORD** IN ALL YOUR DWELLINGS."

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In their narrow interpretation and application of God's commandment, Jesus had violated the sabbath by simply making a small amount of muddy paste and healing his man. In outside sources I have read that a woman was forbidden to thread a needle, pick up a piece of string and many other trivial things that common sense would not characterize as work. A person couldn't even carry a handkerchief. It had to be sewn to their garment, otherwise they would be carrying something and that was work.

v.15 "THEN AGAIN THE PHARISEES ALSO ASKED HIM HOW HE HAD RECEIVED HIS SIGHT. HE SAID UNTO THEM, HE PUT CLAY UPON MINE EYES, AND I WASHED AND DO SEE."

Not satisfied with what they had probably already been told, the Pharisee's determine to conduct their own investigation to find out what really happened. The healed man is patient, again describing what happened to him firmly and quietly.

v.16 "THEREFORE SAID SOME OF THE PHARISEES, THIS MAN IS NOT OF GOD, BECAUSE HE KEEPETH NOT THE SABBATH DAY. OTHERS SAID, HOW CAN A MAN THAT IS A SINNER DO SUCH MIRACLES [SIGNS]? AND THERE WAS A DIVISION AMONG THEM."

Now the Scribes and Pharisees are in a quandary. Some held so closely to the "Traditions" of the Jewish elders, traditions that more restrictive than those of the actual Mosaic Covenant, that they condemned any who do not do likewise. Others see things as did Nicodemus:

John 3:2 "THE SAME CAME TO JESUS BY NIGHT, AND SAID UNTO HIM, RABBI, WE KNOW THAT THOU ART A TEACHER COME FROM GOD: FOR NO MAN CAN DO THESE MIRACLES THAT THOU DOEST, EXCEPT GOD BE WITH HIM."

So we see the same condition that existed before when he taught in the temple:

John 7:43 "SO THERE WAS A DIVISION AMONG THE PEOPLE BECAUSE OF HIM."

v.17 "THEY SAY UNTO THE BLIND MAN AGAIN, WHAT SAYEST THOU OF HIM, THAT HE HATH OPEN THINE EYES? HE SAID; HE IS A PROPHET."

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His answer is as quick and accurate as that of the Samaritan women at Jacob's well.

John 4:19 "THE WOMAN SAITH UNTO HIM, SIR, I PERCEIVE THAT THOU ART A PROPHET."

She knew that only a man of God could have performed the miracles that Jesus performed.

v.18 "BUT THE JEWS DID NOT BELIEVE CONCERNING HIM, THAT HE HAD BEEN BLIND, AND RECEIVED HIS SIGHT, UNTIL THEY CALLED THE PARENTS OF HIM THAT RECEIVED HIS SIGHT."

Now the Pharisees start looking for another way out of their dilemma. They call the parents of the healed man; hoping that they can prove that he was not born blind or even perhaps that he was not blind at all. They were desperate to discredit Jesus.

v.19 "AND THEY ASKED THEM, SAYING, IS THIS YOUR SON, WHO YE SAY WAS BORN BLIND? HOW THEN DOTHE HE SEE?"

They challenge the parents. They appear to be trying to claim that his parents are just saying that the man was born blind, that he actually wasn't. They ask the parents of the son, you claim he was born blind...So then how is it that he can now see? They want to hear something other than the fact that Jesus had healed him. They were not concerned about rejoicing with the one who was healed.

v.20 "HIS PARENTS ANSWERED THEM AND SAID, WE KNOW THAT THIS IS OUR SON, AND THAT HE WAS BORN BLIND."

The man's parents are honest and straightforward with their response. They emphasize that from their own personal knowledge that "THIS IS OUR SON" and that "HE WAS BORN BLIND". They were not willing to accept what happened at face value, they want to find fault. They are like the person whose mind is made up, don't confuse me with facts.

v.21 "BUT BY WHAT MEANS HE NOW SEETH, WE KNOW NOT; OR WHO HATH OPENED HIS EYES, WE KNOW NOT: HE IS OF AGE; ASK HIM: HE SHALL SPEAK FOR HIMSELF."

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The man's parents plead ignorance. They don't know how he has not come to be able to see. They know nothing about the one who it is claimed has healed his blindness. They pass the buck, they say ask him, he's of age; he can speak for himself.

v.22 "THESE *words* SPAKE HIS PARENTS, BECAUSE THEY FEARED THE JEWS, FOR THE JEWS HAD AGREED ALREADY, THAT IF ANY MAN DID CONFESS THAT HE WAS CHRIST, HE SHOULD BE PUT OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE."

In their efforts to curtail the effects of the teaching of Jesus the Jews had made a decision concerning their people. Anyone who would confess their belief in him would be barred from the synagogue. We have seen this same situation before:

John 7:13 "HOWBEIT NO MAN SPAKE OPENLY OF HIM FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS."

Jesus warned his apostles:

John 16:2 "THEY SHALL PUT YOU OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUES: YEA, THE TIME COMETH, THAT WHOSOEVER KILLETH YOU WILL THINK THAT HE DOETH GOD SERVICE."

We see this prophecy fulfilled by the work of Saul before his conversion.

v.23 "THEREFORE SAID HIS PARENTS, HE IS OF AGE; ASK HIM."

So again the man's parents refuse to answer the questions put to them by the scribes and Pharisees and tell them to ask the man himself. Of course they have already done that and had been told that Jesus Christ was a prophet (**v.17**), and therefore a man of God to be honored. This is not what they wanted to hear.

v.24 "THEN AGAIN CALLED THEY THE MAN THAT WAS BLIND, AND SAID UNTO HIM, GIVE GOD THE PRAISE: WE KNOW THAT THIS MAN IS A SINNER."

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The scribes and Pharisees finally reach a resolution in their minds about this man being healed. They encourage the man who was blind to thank and honor God because his affliction was removed. But not to honor the man who healed him because he is a sinner. They declared him a sinner because he violated their interpretation of the Sabbath laws by healing a man who was blind.

v.25 “HE ANSWERED AND SAID, WHETHER HE BE A SINNER *or no*, I KNOW NOT: ONE THING I KNOW, THAT, WHEREAS I WAS BLIND, NOW I SEE.”

The man who was blind refuses to encourage or join their condemnation of Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. He has but one thought in his mind, he was blind and now he can see.

v.26 “THEN THEY SAID TO HIM AGAIN, WHAT DID HE TO THEE? HOW OPENED HE THINE EYES?”

The Pharisees don't like his answers so they start to cross-examine him again but they like what he says now even less. We might even suppose that they understood human nature, how that it is almost impossible to tell a story the same way twice unless it is absolute truth. They want to trip him up.

v.27 “HE ANSWERED THEM, I HAVE TOLD YOU ALREADY, AND YE DID NOT HEAR: WHEREFORE WOULD YE HEAR it AGAIN? WILL YE ALSO BE HIS DISCIPLE?”

Now, in their minds at least, he insults them. He doesn't seem to understand why they want to hear his story again. He asks, are you so interested because you want to become his disciples? Then in addition he admits that he is ready to become a disciple of Jesus himself. They are infuriated.

v.28 “THEN THEY REVILED HIM, AND SAID, THOU ART HIS DISCIPLE; BUT WE ARE MOSES DISCIPLES.”

Now these revered religious leaders do the same thing many do today when confronted with “TRUTH”. They “REVILED” the man who was blind, they spoke to him now with contempt, using abusive language to belittle him. They claimed to be Moses' disciples but they did not believe the words of Moses:

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Deuteronomy 18:15 “THE LORD THY GOD WILL RAISE UP UNTO THEE A PROPHET FROM THE MIDST OF THEE, OF THY BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; UNTO HIM YE SHALL HEARKEN.”

v.29 “WE KNOW THAT GOD SPAKE UNTO MOSES: *as for* THIS *fellow* [man], WE KNOW NOT FROM WHENCE HE IS.”

They absolutely refuse to hear his testimony, testimony confirmed by God at his baptism (**Matthew 3:17**) and by his works:

John 5:36 “BUT I HAVE GREATER **WITNESS** THAN *that* OF JOHN: FOR THE **WORKS** WHICH THE FATHER HATH GIVEN ME TO FINISH, THE SAME **WORKS** THAT I DO, BEAR **WITNESS** OF ME, THAT THE FATHER HATH SENT ME.”

v.30 “THE MAN ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, WHY HEREIN IS A MARVELLOUS THING, THAT YE KNOW FROM WHENCE HE IS, AND **yet** HE HATH OPENED MY EYES.”

The man who was blind has questions for the Pharisees much the same as Jesus had earlier in his ministry for Nicodemus.

John 3:10 “...ART THOU A MASTER OF ISRAEL, AND KNOWEST NOT THESE THINGS?”

They were the scribes who copied and knew the Law by heart. They were Pharisees the strictest sect of the Jews, those who held very closely to the letter of the Mosaic Law and as such knew the Law, the Prophets, and the traditions of the elders. Yet they claimed not to know that Jesus was a man from God, a Prophet, they ignored the power demonstrated by his miracles, challenged him at every turn.

v.31 “NOW WE KNOW THAT GOD HEARETH NOT SINNERS: BUT IF ANY MAN BE A WORSHIPPER OF GOD, AND DOETH HIS WILL, HIM HE HEARETH.”

There are times when God does not hear sinners. We find this contention in the words of Elihu to Job:

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Job 35:12-13 “THERE THEY CRY, BUT NONE GIVETH ANSWER, BECAUSE OF THE PRIDE OF EVIL MEN. SURELY GOD WILL NOT HEAR VANITY, NEITHER WILL THE ALMIGHTY REGARD IT.”

God told Judah through the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 1:14-15 “YOUR NEW MOONS AND YOUR APPOINTED FEASTS MY SOUL HATETH: THEY ARE A TROUBLE UNTO ME; I AM WEARY TO BEAR *them*. AND WHEN YE SPREAD FORTH YOUR HANDS, I WILL HIDE MINE EYES FROM YOU: YEA, WHEN YE MAKE MANY PRAYERS, I WILL NOT HEAR: YOUR HANDS ARE FULL OF BLOOD.”

And to both Judah and Israel through his prophet Micah:

Micah 3:4 “THEN SHALL THEY CRY UNTO THE **LORD**, BUT HE WILL NOT HEAR THEM: HE WILL EVEN HIDE HIS FACE FROM THEM AT THAT TIME, AS THEY HAVE BEHAVED THEMSELVES ILL IN THEIR DOINGS.”

God will hear those who obey him, a Psalm of David:

Psalm 4:3 “BUT KNOW THAT THE **LORD** HATH SET APART HIM THAT IS GODLY FOR HIMSELF: THE **LORD** WILL HEAR WHEN I CALL UNTO HIM.”

Through Jesus Christ God will not only hear us but also will provide us an abundance of spiritual blessings. We are encouraged by the Hebrew writer:

Hebrews 4:16 “LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.”

v.32 “SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN WAS IT NOT HEARD THAT ANY MAN OPENED THE EYES OF ONE THAT WAS BORN BLIND.”

Now this man confronts the Pharisees with a fact that they could not deny. While men who had become blind might have been healed, while certain diseases might be overcome; there was no knowledge that a man born blind had ever been healed. Then he draws the simple conclusion that any honest, thinking man would draw:

v.33 “IF THIS MAN WERE NOT OF GOD, HE COULD DO NOTHING.”

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This is the same conclusion that Nicodemus made when he visited with Jesus in John Chapter 3; if he was not a man of God he could not do the things that he had done.

v.34 “THEY ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, THOU WAST ALTOGETHER BORN IN SINS, AND DOST THOU TEACH US? AND THEY CAST HIM OUT.”

The reaction of the Pharisees was to accuse the man born blind as born in sin, that his blindness was as the result of sin and now he is attempting to teach them, the elite, the high professors (as it were) of Jewish religion. So they “CAST HIM OUT”, they bar him from the synagogue.

Read **John 9:35-41** – The Man Confesses Christ

v.35 “JESUS HEARD THAT THEY HAD CAST HIM OUT; AND WHEN HE HAD FOUND HIM, HE SAID UNTO HIM, DOST THOU BELIEVE ON THE SON OF GOD?”

When Jesus heard that the man he healed had been cast out of the synagogue he went to him and asked him if he was a believer. He was testing him to see if he was a disciple indeed; if so he would answer as Peter did:

Matthew 16:16 “AND SIMON PETER ANSWERED AND SAID, THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.”

When John had written in the gospel that bears his name, his purpose was to generate this kind of belief. This is also true of his letters:

I John 5:13 “THESE THINGS HAVE I WRITTEN UNTO YOU THAT BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD; THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT HE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, AND THAT HE MAY BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD.”

When Jesus asked the many this question, perhaps because of the Jews interrogation, he is cautious:

v.36 “HE ANSWERED AND SAID, WHO IS HE, LORD, THAT I MIGHT BELIEVE ON HIM?”

This man already knew that this man, the one who had healed him, was a man from God but he did not yet realize that he was the Son of God.

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v.37 “AND JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, THOU HAST BOTH SEEN HIM, AND IT IS HE THAT TALKETH WITH THEE.”

Just as Jesus had told the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well:

John 4:26 “JESUS SAITH UNTO HER, I THAT SPEAK UNTO THEE AM *he*.”

He now tells the man he healed that he is the Son of God.

v.38 “AND HE SAID, LORD, I BELIEVE. AND HE WORSHIPPED HIM.”

The man makes that simple statement that he did believe and then he worshipped Jesus as the Son of God.

v.39 “AND JESUS SAID, FOR JUDGMENT I AM COME UNTO THIS WORLD, THAT THEY WHICH SEE NOT MIGHT SEE; AND THAT THEY WHICH SEE MIGHT BE MADE BLIND.”

As we discussed in the early part of chapter eight Jesus did not come into the world at this time for the purpose of exercising judgment on the world. Judgment and the eternal consequences will be his right and purpose, but not at this time, later at the end of time. But in another sense Jesus is judging the world because as the light of the world he has brought man’s true condition into clear view.

In doing so, those who have chosen to open their eyes to the revelation of God can now see clearly, while those who claim to be enlightened, the scribes and Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day are blinded by their refusal to hear the Son of God. Thus those that were blind to these things can now see while those who should have been able to see refused to believe even those things that they saw, the works of Jesus.

v.40 “AND *some* OF THE PHARISEES WHICH WERE WITH HIM HEARD THESE WORDS, AND SAID UNTO HIM, ARE WE BLIND ALSO?”

The Pharisees who heard him say these things understood that he was talking about them and asked “ARE WE BLIND ALSO?” And they were, blind because they chose not to see.

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v.41 “JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, IF YE WERE BLIND, YE SHOULD HAVE NO SIN: BUT NOW YE SAY, WE SEE; THEREFORE YOUR SIN REMAINETH.”

They claimed that they were not blind and therefore refused to be taught, refused to hear the words of the Son of God. But in doing this they were blind; would not accept the salvation God provided through his son and were lost in their sin. Jesus describes their condition in later teaching this way:

“IF I HAD NOT COME AND SPOKEN UNTO THEM, THEY HAD NOT HAD SIN: BUT NOW THEY HAVE NO CLOAK FOR THEIR SIN. HE THAT HATETH ME HATETH MY FATHER ALSO. IF I HAD NOT DONE AMONG THEM THE WORKS WHICH NONE OTHER MAN DID, THEY HAD NOT SIN: BUT NOW HAVE THEY BOTH SEEN AND HATED BOTH ME AND MY FATHER.” **John 16:22-24**

If we are not careful we can do the same thing. We can rest easy in our knowledge that we have obeyed that “FORM OF DOCTRINE” that we have learned without becoming true “SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.” **Romans 6:17-18**