

## COMMUNION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN **I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE** John Chapter 9

The story in our passage became the basis for that part of the most famous hymn saying “*I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see*”. Can a testimony for God be any simpler?

Jesus Christ's morality, is a morality rooted in grace. It never compromises with sin, but it never rejects the sinner. It accords the sinner love and respect; it says that a person is of worth and value. Look at how Jesus reached out to one “sinner”. Is this your story too? If not yet, it could be:

### **1. The CURE (9:1–7)**

- a) *The man has the characteristics of the lost sinner.*
- *He was blind* (Eph. 4:18; John 3:3; 2 Cor. 4:3–6). The unsaved, though intellectual like Nicodemus, can never see or understand spiritual things. See 1 Cor. 2:14–16.
  - *He was begging*. The unsaved are poor in God's sight, though perhaps rich in the eyes of the world. They are begging for something to satisfy their deepest needs.
  - *He was helpless*. He could not cure himself; and nobody could cure him.
- b) *The cure shows how Christ saves a sinner.*
- *He came to the man in grace*. Christ could have passed him by, for it was Sabbath, a day of rest (v. 14). While the disciples argued about the cause of the blindness, Jesus did something for the man.
  - *He cured the man by His power*. The man proved his faith in Christ by being obedient to the Word. “Religion” today wants to give men substitutes for salvation, but only Christ can deliver from the darkness of sin and hell.
  - *The cure glorified God*. All true conversions are for God's glory alone (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14; 2:8–10).
  - *The cure changed the man*. His parents and neighbors saw a change in his life. So it is when a person is born again—others see the difference it makes (2 Cor. 5:17).

### **2. The CONTROVERSY (9:8–34)**

The formerly blind man told what he knew (v. 25) and showed the Pharisees how foolish their thinking was (vv. 30–33). The simple-hearted believer knows more spiritual truth than unsaved theologians. (Ps. 119:97–104.)

They excommunicated the man from the synagogue. It would have been easy for the formerly blind man to hide the truth and avoid controversy, but he fearlessly stood his ground. He knew what a difference Christ had made in his life, and he could not deny it. Everyone who has met Christ and trusted Him should make it known openly. Yes, your relationship with Christ is personal, but it was never meant to be PRIVATE! Don't be ashamed of Christ.

### 3. The **CONFESSION** (9:35–41)

The man did not realize it then, but the safest place for him was outside the Jewish religious fold. The Jews cast him out, but Christ took him in! Like Paul (see Phil. 3:1–10), this man “lost his religion” but found salvation and went to heaven.

Note how this man grew in his knowledge of Christ:

- “A man called Jesus” (v. 11) was all he knew when Christ healed him.
- “A prophet” (v. 17) is what the man called Him when the Pharisees questioned him.
- “A man of God” (vv. 31–33) is what he concluded Jesus to be.
- “The Son of God” (vv. 35–38) was his final and complete confession of faith. (See 20:30–31.)

The same light that leads one person can blind another (vv. 39–41). The Pharisees insisted that they could see, and therefore rejected the evidence and rejected Christ. The Gospel brings about different reactions from different kinds of hearts: the blind sinner receives the truth and sees; the self-righteous religious person rejects the truth and becomes even blinder spiritually. It is a dangerous thing to reject the light.

### **Final Thoughts:**

The goal of grace is to rescue the individual from slavery to sin, and to free him to sin no more. The person who lives in the light shed by Jesus is ever aware that he approaches others not as one who is exalted above them to judge, but as one who shares with them a common infirmity that prohibits anyone from casting the first stone.

How can we learn to live this new morality of grace? We are to learn from Jesus, by following Him out of the darkness and into His light (v. 12).