

“Believing is Seeing!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. We were probably 1st introduced to **blindness** when we were very young, in a *very weird Nursery Rhyme* called “**3 Blind Mice**” [now referred to as “The Tale of the 3 visually impaired small domestic rodents!”]
1. Three blind mice, three blind mice. See how they run! See how they run!
They all ran after a farmer's wife, Who cut off their tails with a carving knife.
Did you ever see such a thing in your life, As three blind mice?
- B. *Where did this slasher tale come from?* Many nursery rhymes started out as *social commentary* or *political cartoons in verse*. *In this case*, the “*farmer's wife*” was *Queen Mary I of England*, so called because her estates included a lot of farmland.
1. She was displeased with 3 ratty noblemen, but she didn't dismember them as the rhyme suggests. She simply had them **burned at the stake!**
- C. **Q:** Would God allow a brand new seeker get pummeled by hard questions? Would God allow a brand new believer get thrown out of church? *And if He would, why would He?*
- D. **Recap** the miracle of the man blind from birth -
1. He must have thought “*wait till everyone hears what happened!*”...but that wasn't the story! :(
 2. The man was questioned by his *Nearby Nearsighted Neighbors who Need to Know!*(10) & now from the Pharisees.

II. **BELIEVING IS SEEING!**

- A. **INTERROGATION!** (13-34)
- B. **The Blind Man Questioned** (13-17)
- C. (14) Rabbis taught you could spit on a **rock**, but not on the **ground**, for that would be *working* (i.e. it might roll on the dirt & make mud).
1. **By this time, years of legalistic accretion had encrusted the original Sabbath laws like barnacles.** (William Barclay)
- D. **The Parents Questioned!** (18-23)
- E. They answered questions 1 & 2, but not #3 for fear of being kicked out of the synagogue.
1. So they *Plead the 5th* on the grounds that **would** incriminate them.

- F. **The Blind Man Recalled for Further Questioning!** (24-34)
- G. (24) **Give God the Glory** – was putting him under oath to extract truth.
1. It was used in Josh 7:19 **Now Joshua said to Achan, “My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.”**
- H. (25) Even if you are *1 day old in the Lord*, & feel you don’t know anything yet, you can say with assurance, **“One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see!”**.
1. Many are afraid of saying anything about the Lord for **fear** of getting into a **theological argument over their head**.
 2. Just witness what God has done in your life!
 - a) **You may not be an authority on Theology, but you are the world’s greatest authority on what has happened to You!**¹
 - b) **“A man w/an experience is never at the mercy of a man w/only an argument!”**
 3. People can argue theology & interpretations **but** are speechless when confronted **w/the reality of a changed life**.
 - a) **Live in such a way that one’s life would not make sense if God didn’t exist!**²
 - b) Chuck Swindoll asks, **“Is your life a cold monument to religious duty, or is it a living mystery?”**
- I. (30-33) From the mouth of babes!
- J. It’s interesting that the Pharisees **hostility**, forced this healed man to realize the moral majesty of Jesus!
1. So might God give you a **pagan professor** in college, who loves **trashing Christianity...for the purpose of growing your faith roots deeper?**
 2. Might God give you an **ungodly co-worker**, who constantly tries to **shipwreck your faith... so you can learn how to make fast your anchor?**
 3. God did it for this brand new believer.
 4. **Suffering** is permitted to fall, **for wise & good reasons**, which are compatible w/the character of God, & it provides a platform on which the **grace & power** of God may manifest themselves.
 - a) **But this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life!** (vs.3)
 - b) **Don’t look at the pain , but at its results!**

¹ Kent Hughes

² Cardinal Suhard

- K. (34) Ouch! *The low blow*. The very thing that hurt him the most before his healing, “**who sinned this man or his parents?**”
- L. **Excommunication**. Some churches/synagogues you **want** to be kicked out of!
- M. **IDENTIFICATION!** (35-41)
- N. (35) **Jesus does Follow up!** [Jesus always takes the initiative!]
- O. **The men of the Temple** threw him out, **but the Lord of the temple** searches him out!
- P. **Jesus found him!!!** - **Where was he cast out?...**right into the arms of Jesus!
1. Being thrown out isn't always a bad thing. [Read **Is.53:3a**]
 2. It is better to be **cast out**, or to **come out**(from among them) then be **spued out!**
- Q. Now for the 1st time the man born in darkness comes face to face w/the light of the word!
1. It is **not enough** to believe that He is **a man called Jesus**, or even **a prophet**, or **a man of God**. But **Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ** is born of God.
- R. (38) The healing of the blind man took place on **2 levels**:
1. [1] at the **physical** level his sight was restored; **and**
 2. [2] on the **spiritual** level he came to faith on Christ.³
 - a) Now he sees w/his **heart** as well as w/his **eyes!**
 - b) **He really becomes the model** for Jesus' entire ministry.
- S. Let's look at this man's *progression* of faith:
1. Prov. 4:18(NIV) states, **The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.**
 2. His **1st gleam of light** was in **vs.11** stating He was, “**a Man called Jesus**”.
 3. It got **brighter** in **vs.17** when he said Jesus was, “**a Prophet**”.
 4. It got **brighter still** in **vs.33** when he said Jesus was, “**a Man from God**”.
 5. Then **the full light of day** occurred when he understood Jesus to be, “**The Son of God**”, in **vs.35,38**.
 - a) The man's “**Lord, I believe!**” was the turning point in his life.
- T. (39) **Does this come against what was said in Jn.3:17? For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**
1. **No**, The **reason** for our Lord's coming was **salvation**, but the **result** of His coming was **condemnation** of those who would not believe.
 2. **Our guilt is proportioned to our refusal of the light.**

³ Shepherd's Notes; John; pg.50

U. The Old axiom goes, **Seeing is Believing**, but here we read that **Believing is Seeing!**

V. (40,41) **Are we blind also?** - Hey, *if the darkened glasses fit, wear em!*

1. So now we have seen perfectly illustrated what John said in 1:5 **And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

W. Well, let's just judge them by their own testimony so far:

1. **This Man is not from God(16a); He does not keep the Sabbath(16b); This Man is a sinner(24)** & they claim to not be Jesus' disciple, but Moses'(28)
 - a) So yeah, I'd say you're pretty spiritually blind.
 - b) He doesn't condemn them by **making** them blind; they blind themselves by rejecting Him!

X. **The same light that leads one person, can blind another!**

1. The Gospel brings about different reactions from different kinds of **hearts**:
 - a) The **blind sinner** receives the truth and sees;
 - b) The **self-righteous religious person** rejects the truth and becomes even more blind spiritually.
 - (1) It is a dangerous thing to reject the light.⁴

Y. **Believers, have you examined your *spiritual eyesight* lately?**

1. **Any spiritual blindness** that may be dimming your ability to see & follow *The Light of the World?*
2. **Any spiritual *blind spots*** in your life?

Z. There are none so blind as those who **won't** see!

1. Because you are self-satisfied you are un-healable!
2. Sometimes **Religious men** are often the blindest of all!
 - a) Spurgeon **"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."
3. **Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus. To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.** Bob Cull

AA. **End:** Today you either claim **"to see"** (i.e. Understand spiritual things, but really don't); **or** you realize your **"sp blindness"**, & have asked, **or are ready to ask**, Jesus to restore your sight.

1. **None** come in contact w/Christ w/o being **blinded or enlightened!**

⁴ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the NT.