

Blinded by the Light  
John 9:1-41  
Bethany Assembly of God  
2/4/2024

**Central Proposition: Don't be blinded by the light.**

**Introduction**

Since the beginning of our series in John, we've heard that Jesus is the Light. Last week, we heard His claim that He is the light of the world and that whoever believes in Him will have the light of life. Today, we get an illustration of that statement and a fantastic wrap up to Jesus' ministry at the Feast of Booths. John reports how Jesus masterfully combines the imagery of light and water presented at the feast to reveal something further about Himself and about believing in Him. He has come to open the eyes of the spiritually blind, but if you don't think you are blind and you reject His offer, what hope remains for you? I want to share three warnings this chapter gives about how to avoid being blinded and instead, receive the healing Jesus came to give you.

**1. Know that things are not always as they appear.** See John 9:1-12.

Blindness was a big problem in antiquity. You couldn't work, so primarily, blind people were knocked down to the lowest rung of society and had to beg. The theology of the time was largely that sickness and suffering were the result of sin and this made an interesting theological question when someone was *born* with a disease or disability, like a man born blind. Who sinned to cause this blindness? Some laid the blame on parents. Other Rabbis, or Jewish teachers, went as far as to suggest that maybe unborn babies could sin in the womb. Since this was such a theological conundrum and the man they saw had been born blind, the disciples took the opportunity to ask Jesus and I'm so grateful for His answer, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him..." Of course, there are times when our sin does have direct and observable consequences, but we shouldn't think that we can always judge a person based on their circumstances and we shouldn't ever start with that assumption.

**2. Stop keeping up appearances.** See John 9:8-36.

The story then turns from the miracle itself to the testimony of the formerly blind man to his neighbors and then to the Pharisees trying to figure out what had happened and what it all meant. Obviously, the man had been healed, but they wanted to know what that said about Jesus. They asked the formerly blind man what he thought about Jesus, and he said that Jesus was a prophet. Everyone else was trying to find fault with Jesus or distance themselves for fear of the Pharisees, but the formerly blind man isn't afraid. He's moving closer to Jesus. He hasn't even met Jesus since his eyes were opened, but he knows that he wants to follow Him. He's a disciple. If you're a believer in Jesus, you are the blind man who now sees. Don't grow so fearful of others that you try to put distance between yourself and Jesus.

**3. Don't lie to yourself.** See John 9:35-41 and Revelation 3:17-22.

There's one more warning this passage gives concerning responding to the light. The healing of the blind man is a metaphor for spiritual life. The blind man knew that he was blind, but the trouble with the Pharisees was that even though they were spiritually blind, they claimed they could see.

**Conclusion**

The judgment Jesus brought into the world was not that He came to condemn but that He came as true light and those who walked in darkness hid from Him. They were blind, but they thought they could see.