

## Seeing With New Eyes

### Intro

Jn 9:1-41

#### ▶ An “awareness” problem

- A passage for everyone.
  - Sweet invitation for those who have yet to believe in Christ and experience His life-transforming grace.
  - Rousing exhortation to those who profess Christianity, yet have become more preoccupied with Christian activities than with Christ.

### Hostile Tones in Jn 9: What’s Going On?

- It is not difficult to discover a pattern in the way Jesus relates 1) to self-conscious sinners and 2) to religiously self-reliant, “I’m no sinner”, sinners.
- The religious leaders’ problem with Jesus was at least three-fold.
  1. He seemed to enjoy breaking their laws. (lawlessness)
  2. He made himself equal with God. (heresy)
  3. His miracles were causing folks to actually wonder if He might be from, or even might be (!) God. (influence)

## Jesus' Balancing Word on 'Sins & Sufferings'

"Rabbi, who sinned ... that he was born blind?"

- Is it biblically accurate to say, "All suffering is a result of the Fall"?
- Does Scripture teach the general principle of sowing and reaping – that actions have consequences?
- Yet, does Scripture teach that each experience of suffering in my life is owing to a specific sin that I, or my parents, have committed?

*Application: discern your "discernment" – avoid speculation*

## The Post-Healing ~~Celebration~~ Interrogation

9:3-34

- Note the progression of the Pharisees' understanding in contrast to the ex-blind man.

Vs 11 - man called Jesus

Vs 17 - prophet

Vs 33 - from God

Vs 35 - Son of Man

Vs 38 - Believe in and worship as God

## Another Blindness, Another Healing

9:35-41

**“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.”** -Charles Spurgeon, quoted in *John*, Kent Hughes, p261

### ▶ Two ways or three ways?

- 1) Following Christ
- 2) Following the world
- 3) Following religion

**“It is possible to come to know Christ but to effectively seal ourselves from the light. As with the Pharisees, our pride in visible change can dull us to the aggressive darkness of our hearts.”**

-Kent Hughes, *John*, p260

- The Pharisees didn't know it, but blindness is a universal problem. We don't see Him. We can't see Him, apart from a miracle of grace.

1 Cor 2:14-16 “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

2 Cor 3:12-18; 4:3-6

## **Keep Your New Eyes Focused!**

- There are no other ways of seeing the glory of God apart from seeing it “in the face of Jesus Christ.”
- The Christian life never moves past our need to see the Savior; hence the Gospels are here for us! And the Epistles maintain this central focus on Him who has the preeminence in all things (Col 1:15-20).
- Have we seen Him? Are we self-reliant? Or do we sense our need, not only for the first step of faith toward God, but the whole life of faith, to see Christ and revel in His grace? What are we looking at with our new eyes?
- The new eyes are there so that we might behold and be continually transformed by the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.