



# THE THREAD

*weaving Sunday's message through the week*

**Date:** May 31, 2020 **Passage:** John 9:1-41

The key issues are:

1. Who is Jesus really? (Is he from God?)
2. What has he been sent to do?
1. Who has true sight?

Outline:

## **The 5th Sign - Jesus gives sight to a blind man (9:1-41)**

### **Jesus and the blind man (9:1-7)**

- (v. 1) Jesus sees the blind man – God pursues us in our spiritual darkness by his delight and initiative
- (v. 6) Jesus proves that he is the Light of the world by giving sight to the blind man

The Pharisees judge Jesus (9:8-34)

9:8-12 :: The neighbors are confused

- Transformation happens by God's supernatural power and gracious work in our lives
- (v. 12) We are witnesses to Jesus by simply telling what he has done for us

9:13-17 :: The Pharisees and the man, part 1

- (v. 15) Opposition to Jesus is fueled because of the Sabbath laws
  - o The man's sight is the evidence of his healer's power and authority
- o (v. 16-17) the religious experts ask for the beggar's judgment regarding Jesus

9:18-23 :: The Pharisees and the man's parents

- o (v. 18) The Jews refuse to believe
  - o Unbelief blinds many from the simple truth about Jesus
- o (vv. 20-23) The parents confirm the son's blindness but distance themselves from Jesus because they are afraid

9:24-34 :: The Pharisees and the man, part 2

- o The beautiful simplicity of a transformed life is the most powerful witness to the glory and grace of God in Jesus Christ
- o Transformation by God's grace leads to bold allegiance to Jesus
- o (vv. 28-29) The Pharisees ridicule the man
- o Those who have been changed by Jesus have a firm foundation,

therefore we must not revile when reviled against (Isaiah 53; Matthews 5:11/ Luke 6:22-23; 1 Peter 2:21-24 )

o (vv. 30-34) The man is amazed at the Pharisees' unbelief and is cast out  
**The truth about sight and blindness (9:35-41)**

- o (vv. 35-38) To truly see is to put one's faith in Jesus
- o (v. 39) Jesus is *the* righteous, who makes right (good) judgments
  - Blindness is a condition for sight in the kingdom of God
  - Acknowledging our blindness is the requirement for seeing
- o (vv. 40-41) the Pharisees reveal their hard-heartedness and blindness
  - Jesus confirms that they do not see (unbelief) and therefore their guilt remains
- One must recognize their spiritual blindness in order to have spiritual sight. This is the only condition for receiving spiritual sight.

### **THE MAIN POINT:**

The glory and grace of God are displayed in Christ as he gives spiritual sight (faith) to those who will humbly trust him; "blindness is the channel of belief" (Edward Klink)

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does this account teach us about God's role in bringing people to faith?
2. What role did the blind man play in receiving sight?
3. What was the power of the man's testimony? Where do you feel inadequate or insecure in your ability to be an effective witness for Christ?
4. Where are you placing your hope for being changed? God's grace and power or your own effort? What does the man's obedience teach us about our role in being transformed?
5. Where do you see God bringing about transformation? (Because we are often unable to see, or feel, the transformative work God is doing in ourselves, consider pointing out to those around you areas in which you see God transforming *them*: your roommate, your spouse, your children, those you share your life with.
6. What is the ultimate result of unbelief? Where do you battle unbelief in your life? Will you ever overcome unbelief by knowing enough? How should we confront our own unbelief?
7. How can "blindness become a channel of belief" in your life?

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