

## Eyes Wide Open

### John 9:1-41

**vs. 1-5**, The disciples and the Pharisees assume there is a connection between present disability and previous sin.

- Someone must have done something wrong (Who's sin was it?)
- This bad behavior must be judged.
- It is an earthly attempt to understand the justice of God.

This seems so unfair -> **Why?**

Earthly response: someone, somewhere along the way did something wrong.

There are some basic truths that we believe are at work.

Actions have consequences

- *Newton's third law of motion* - for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.
- Good things often happen as a result of good actions (kindness produces gratitude).
- Bad things happen through bad actions (reckless living causes loneliness and self-absorption).

Jesus interrupts our earthly thought patterns!

There is difficulty, pain, and brokenness in our present world.

God in his wisdom, love, and justice is making all things new (new creation).

### The truth of Jesus meets the reality of a broken world.

Jesus is the light of the world

**1:4**, In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Jesus is acting in real time, providing and sustaining real change (kingdom change).

Genesis speaks of creation.

The earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths,

**Genesis 1:3-4**, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good,

Chaos is all around us.

**But**... it is in this very dark and overwhelming moment that Jesus is establishing the beauty and wholeness of new creation.

The light is very good.

The light will not be extinguished.

Jesus is the Resurrected Savior.

Jesus is alive. Jesus has conquered death.

Jesus overcomes the chaos!

**vs. 7**, So he left, washed, and came back seeing.

**vs. 8-9**, His neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit begging?" **9** Some said, "He's the one." Others were saying, "No, but he looks like him."

He kept saying, "I'm the one."

Is he really the same person?

When life transformation takes place it produces dramatic results.

- Can a person who chronically lies and cheats become truthful and whole?
- Can an individual who is profane and selfish become peace filled and others aware?
- Can pride be replaced with humility?
- Can anger be replaced with peace?
- Can greed be replaced with generosity?

The answer is yes! Because of Jesus, Yes!

**vs. 13-23**

The Pharisees are afraid of Jesus.

If anyone declares Jesus to be the Messiah they will be put out of the synagogue (disowned, expelled, and ostracized from the community).

- Ignorance is understandable.
- Arrogance is a very different reality.

The parents of the one who had received his sight.

They are afraid of the social and communal consequences.

**vs. 23**, “He’s of age; ask him.”

**1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears is not complete in love.

For John love and healing are all part of the new creation.

The good news of the gospel is its removal of fear.

The Pharisees are fearful and angry.

The parents are fearful and anxious.

Look what Jesus has done!

We expect the result to be changed lives.

We expect people to grow in faith, hope, and love.

The tragic reality is not everyone does move in that direction when they encounter Jesus.

The world is dark.

Jesus is our way out!

- The man who had been blind and can now see takes a small step of faith. “He’s a prophet.” (vs. 17)
- Then another step... “One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!” (vs. 25)
- Then another step... “If this man were not from God, he wouldn’t be able to do anything.” (vs. 33)

**vs. 35-41**, And again another enlightening step.

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is he, Sir, That I may believe in him?”

“You have seen him; he is the one speaking with you.”

“I believe, Lord!”

From darkness to light.

- In the new creation God’s people will be set free not only from blindness but from evil and death.

John is highlighting the full extent of darkness. Deception is a blindfold preventing the clarity of reality.

Jesus is the Son of Man

**Daniel 7:14** He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,

so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Judgement -Those who embrace the light and those who reject it.

**Spiritual blindness**

The Pharisees are completely overcome by darkness.

**vs. 40**, “We aren’t blind too, are we?”

Yes, yes you are!

Their denial demonstrates that their sin remains.

John captures the irony of earthly logic.

Blindness is not an indication of sin.

But...claiming to have it all figured out when in fact you don't, that is certainly sin.

Jesus disrupts.

Will it make a difference?

Will the world allow the light of Jesus to heal and bring about lasting change?

-Or-

Will the world remain in darkness?

**Romans 1:32** Although they know God’s just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die—they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

Remember: Freedom and truth go hand in hand.

Bondage thrives on lies, half truths, evasions, and cover-ups.

The flesh, the world, and the enemy will work tirelessly to adjust their vision of the moral universe so that they can label evil as ‘good’ and good as ‘evil’.

This type of blindness only leads to death.

**Question:** Do you remain in spiritual darkness? Is this because you have yet to meet Jesus? Or, are you stubbornly resisting the truth of who Jesus is?

Are you willing to take the next step toward freedom? How does your life demonstrate that you walk and live in the light?