

Face to Faith: Conversations in the Gospel of John

Week 4 — John 9:35–41 — The Man Born Blind

All Scripture references NIV

Before You Begin

Pray: “Lord, open my eyes to see You clearly, soften my heart to receive Your Word, and lead me to respond in worship and obedience.”

Scripture Reading (NIV)

Primary Passage: John 9:35–41 (read in your Bible or app). For context, read John 9:1–34.

Memory Verse: *“Then the man said, ‘Lord, I believe,’ and he worshiped him.”* (John 9:38, NIV)

Sermon Summary

Jesus and His disciples encounter a man blind from birth (John 9:1). The disciples assume a cause-and-effect between sin and suffering. Jesus rejects their assumption and reframes the moment: this man’s condition will showcase God’s work (9:3).

Jesus heals with a personal touch—mud and washing at Siloam. The man returns seeing. Neighbors are astonished, and religious leaders interrogate him. He simply testifies: “One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” (9:25).

When the healed man is excommunicated, Jesus finds him and leads him to saving faith (9:35–38). The man responds with belief and worship. Jesus then exposes spiritual blindness: those who insist they can ‘see’ on their own remain in guilt (9:39–41).

Key Takeaways

- **His Compassion Is Unending:** Jesus dispels shame and draws near to the outcast. He not only heals but seeks the man after rejection—compassion that restores dignity and belonging (Psalm 27:10).
- **His Power Is Overwhelming:** Jesus gives physical sight and, greater still, spiritual sight. God’s power is displayed through healing and, at times, through sustained weakness that magnifies His grace (2 Corinthians 12:9–10).
- **His Glory Is Revealing:** The presence of Jesus demands a response. Our reaction to His self-revelation exposes our hearts—humble faith leads to worship; prideful certainty leaves us blind (John 9:39–41).

Self-Guided Discussion Guide

Observe & Interpret

- 1 What assumptions do the disciples make about suffering in John 9:1–2? How does Jesus correct them (9:3)?
- 2 Trace the healed man's growing understanding of Jesus (9:11, 9:17, 9:33, 9:38). What changes at each step?
- 3 Where do you see contrast between physical sight and spiritual sight in 9:39–41?

Reflect

- 1 Where have you carried a 'shame cloud' like the blind man—believing your struggle proves God's displeasure? What does Jesus' response reveal about His heart?
- 2 When have you experienced God's power more in weakness than in instant relief? How did that shape your trust?
- 3 What typically keeps you from responding in worship or obedience when Jesus makes Himself known?

Apply

- **Compassion:** Identify one person who feels sidelined or shunned. Initiate a simple act of mercy this week (check-in, meal, prayer).
- **Witness:** Practice the healed man's testimony in one sentence: "One thing I do know..." (John 9:25). Share it with someone.
- **Worship:** Take one step outside your comfort zone in corporate worship or private devotion that meaningfully expresses surrender to Jesus.

Personal Reflection

Closing Prayer

Jesus, Light of the World, open my eyes to see You and my heart to trust You. Dispel my shame, reveal Your power in my weakness, and lead me to worship You in Spirit and in truth. Amen.