

# TONIGHT'S READING



## THE NEED OF THE BLIND (I)

Scripture Reading:

John 9:1-11

<sup>1</sup>And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And His disciples asked Him, saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind? <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but he was born so, that the works of God might be manifested in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. <sup>6</sup>When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed his eyes with the clay, <sup>7</sup>And He said to him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is interpreted, Sent). He went therefore and washed and came away seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors then and those who previously saw him as a beggar said, Is not this the one who used to sit and beg? <sup>9</sup>Some said, This is he. Others said, No, but he is like him. He said, I am the one. <sup>10</sup>They said then to him, How then were your eyes opened? <sup>11</sup>He answered, The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and said to me, Go to the pool of Siloam and wash. I went therefore and washed, and I received my sight.

John 9:35-41

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and He found him and said, Do you believe into the Son of God? <sup>36</sup>He answered and said, And who is He, Lord, that I may believe into Him? <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, You have both seen Him, and He is the One speaking with you. <sup>38</sup>And he said, Lord, I believe; and he worshipped Him. <sup>39</sup>And Jesus said, For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind. <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, We are not blind also, are

we? <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, If you were blind, you would not have sin; but now that you say, We see; your sin remains.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

2 Corinthians 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

John 9 presents the seventh kind of people whom the Lord Jesus contacted on the earth, the blind. On the one hand, the eight kinds of people whom the Lord Jesus contacted in the Gospel of John refer to eight different kinds of people in humanity. On the other hand, these eight conditions can be found in every person. The first five kinds of people are one group, and the last three kinds of people are another group. The first five kinds of people are the moral, the immoral, the impotent, the hungry, and the thirsty. The last three kinds of people are the sinful, the blind, and the dead. The five conditions of the first group show that man needs the life of the Lord Jesus for regeneration, satisfaction, and strengthening. The three conditions of the second group show that man needs the Lord's life to resolve three great problems: sins, blindness, and death. Every person has these three problems. In the preceding chapter we have seen how the life of the Lord Jesus solves the problem of sins. In this chapter we will see how the life of the Lord Jesus solves the problem of blindness, the inability to see.

## **MAN BEING BORN BLIND**

In John 9 the Lord Jesus met a man who was blind from birth. According to verses 39 through 41, the spiritual significance of being born blind is that man has no knowledge of God or of spiritual things from his birth. Blindness is the inability to see, the losing of one's sight. Everyone can see with their physical eyes from birth, but man's inward eyes are blind and unable to see God and spiritual things.

Man is born blind, because he does not know God. Before we were saved, we may have said that there is no God. However, it is not that there is no God but that we could not see God due to our blindness. Man is born blind, because he does not understand the meaning of the universe. He does not know how the universe came into existence, the condition of the universe, or what will be the end of the universe.

Man is born blind, because he does not know his origin, course, or destination. Man does not know where he came from, where he is today, or where he is going. This is a matter of being blind. People

think that they know many things. Some have academic degrees; they know philosophy, science, and principles and laws. However, they do not know their origin, their present condition, or their destination. This proves that man is blind; he cannot see his actual condition. He does not know the meaning of his human life, and he does not know what his relationship is with God.

Man is born blind, because he is ignorant of the mysteries of God. Spiritual matters, such as God's plan of salvation, His incarnation and life on earth, His desire to be man's life and to be mingled and joined with man, are beyond human comprehension.

Man is born blind, because the Holy Bible is foreign to man. The Bible is God's revelation. It makes known God's intention. However, a person cannot understand the Bible before he is saved, because the eyes of his heart are blind.

There are three necessary conditions in order to see an object. If we want to read a book, for example, we must open it. Without opening the book, we cannot see the printed words. This opening is a "revealing." To reveal an object is to remove the veil in order for us to see it. However, a mere opening is not sufficient. Even though a book is opened, we will be unable to see the printed words if it is dark. Hence, we need light to shine upon the page so that we may see. This is the second condition. The third condition is that our eyes must be opened to see. If we do not have our sight, we will not be able to see. Therefore, in order to see something, there should be an opening, light, and vision. These three conditions result in seeing.

The same principle applies to spiritual seeing. In order for us to see the true meaning of a spiritual matter, we first need the revelation of the Bible. Second, we need the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. God sends the Holy Spirit to enlighten us and guide us to understand the truth. Third, we need spiritual eyes. When we have these three conditions, we can understand spiritual things.

God has given us the Bible, and He reveals every spiritual matter to us through the Bible. In the Bible God has revealed His purpose, the meaning of the universe, the meaning of man, the relationship between God and the universe, the relationship between God and man, man's condition, man's destination, the way for man to receive God's salvation, how man can be accepted by God, how to be in God's will, and how to be mingled and united with God. All these matters are explained in the Bible. Furthermore, the Spirit operates to enlighten man. When a person reads the Bible, the Spirit is there to shine in him. However, most people still cannot understand the Bible, nor can they see the spiritual matters contained in the Bible, because they lack spiritual eyes. Man has the Bible, and the Spirit is working, but man still cannot see spiritual things, because he is blind.

Man is not only blind inwardly; he is born blind. The representative in John 9 was blind from birth. This means that man's inner blindness is a matter of birth, a condition by nature; it is not a matter of sin.

Therefore, when the disciples asked, “Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” the Lord Jesus answered, “Neither has this man sinned nor his parents” (vv. 2-3). Blindness is not a matter of sin but a matter of nature. Therefore, regardless of whether someone has sinned, regardless of whether he has committed many sins or a few sins, regardless of whether he is bad or good, and regardless of whether he is a robber, a liar, a gentleman, or an upright person, he is born blind inwardly and is unable to see by nature.

In verse 3 the Lord spoke of the works of God being manifested in him. This means that man is blind from birth concerning spiritual matters because he is short of God’s work. Regardless of whether someone is good or bad, his inner eyes cannot be opened if God has not worked in him. Without the Lord Jesus working in him, a noble gentleman with the highest morality is as blind inwardly as the most evil person. An evil and wicked person does not know God, and the most moral person likewise cannot understand God, because man is blind from birth and does not know God by nature. Hence, man needs God to work and open his inner eyes so that he can see.