

# YOU HAVE SEEN HIM

## JOHN 9:24-38

(Prepared by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB Materials)

1. Which one of our five senses do you consider most precious?
2. Have you ever known a person who was blind from birth? (My friend from Muskogee, Wendell Davis was blind from birth. In spite of this handicap, he got a Seminary degree and played the piano beautifully. He has such a sweet spirit. He even went on a mission trip to Mexico. He learned his testimony in Spanish. And almost every time he gave his testimony people would weep and many accepted Christ.)

We rely on our sight to understand things. It helps us live in the present and remember the past. Today's passage focuses on a man who had never seen anything physically, but his physical and spiritual vision were both sharp after meeting Jesus.

(Have a pre-enlisted volunteer give a summary of John 9:1-23.)

Jesus was on the move. He had things to do, places to go, people to see. But He walked slowly through the crowds. He noticed a blind man, even though He was busy.

3. Did the blind man's neighbors really look at him? He was almost invisible to them. They argued about it really being him.

Larry Richards reflects: "How callous of the disciples, and of us. The man born blind, and the devastated mother aren't objects for theological speculation. They are hurting human beings, not riddles for which we have to offer some solution."

4. How did this miracle challenge the Pharisee's assumption? (Theology demanded they classify Jesus a "sinner." But reality demanded they acknowledge a miracle that required the exercise of God's creative power.)
5. Why did Jesus say this man was born blind? (That the glory of God might be displayed in him!) One writer states: "What higher calling could there be? It would have shocked those listening as much as it perhaps shocks us to think that God's saving power might be displayed in a suffering person, rather than a successful person."

### I CAN SEE! Read John 9:24-25

1. How did the Pharisees' traditions and beliefs keep them from seeing the truth about Jesus? (The Jews believed there was a direct correlation between sickness, illness, and infirmities and sin. They believed these conditions were a direct result of sin in a person's life.)
2. How can our beliefs and traditions get in the way of accepting the truth? (Like the Pharisees we allow ourselves to be blinded to the truth. "There is none so blind as he who will not see.")
3. What did this man say that disarmed the Pharisees? (He gave his personal testimony.)

We can learn a lot from this healed man. Our opponents might argue theology with us, but they cannot refute our personal testimony about what Jesus has done for us. The man stood his ground. While he was not looking for a theological fight, he could honestly testify about what had happened to him: "I was blind, and now I can see."

4. How can we use this man's testimony as a pattern for our own testimony? (Simply state what God has done in your life.)

While the Pharisees only saw a violation of the laws they treasured, Jesus saw an opportunity for God's glory to be displayed. He believed the man's healing would reveal His Father—and saw no reason to wait until the Sabbath was over to make it happen.

The man emphasized his experience with Jesus. He knew what had happened to him. His physical sight was accompanied by spiritual insight.

## **YOU CAN'T SEE? Read John 9:26-34**

1. What about this man surprises you? (He is bold, knowledgeable, and articulate.)
2. What differences did you notice between the man and the Pharisees? (The man simply shared what had happened to him. The Pharisees were intent on discrediting his testimony.)
3. Who did the Pharisees claim to follow? (Moses.)
4. Would Moses be a disciple of Jesus? (I believe Moses would have followed the intent of the Law not the letter of the Law.)
5. What makes a person's changed life a powerful means for sharing about Jesus? (The man continued to use logic and personal experience to affirm Jesus as being sent from God. Unable to contradict the man, the leaders began to insult him.)

### **Enemies of Christ cannot refute a transformed life! The most effective apologetic is the witness of a transformed life!**

6. When the Pharisees could not refute the man's testimony what tactic did they use? (They attacked the man himself with name calling and insults.)

### **When someone resorts to personal attacks on you, you know he or she is desperate, and cannot deny the truth of what you're saying.**

7. Why might a person try to discredit the experience of another? (The truth is contrary to what they have been taught and believed all their lives. They may see the truth but close their eyes to the truth out of self-righteousness or pride!)
8. What role does a person's source of authority play in his or her willingness to examine the truth about Jesus? (Everything! The only acceptable source of authority is God's Word!)

The Pharisees failed to recognize Jesus as the Messiah even when confronted with the healed man's testimony. And even though they dismissed both the man and Jesus, God was still at work.

## **I CAN REALLY SEE! Read John 9:35-38**

In their frustration, the religious leaders threw the man out of their presence. It is not clear if this was a temporary situation or if he was being permanently excommunicated from the community of faith.

1. Who is doing the seeking out in these verses? (Jesus.)  
Jesus is always seeking out the lost. He always moves first.
2. Why is it important that Jesus came looking for the man? (Jesus sought out the man and encouraged him to believe in the Son of Man.)

The term "Son of Man" was a favorite self-designation for Jesus to emphasize both His humanity and His identity as the Messiah.

The term "Son of Man" is used 12 times in the book of John: 1:51; 3:13; 3:14; 5:27; 6:27; 6:53; 6:62; 8:28; 9:35; 12:23; 13:31; 12:34.

3. How does knowing Jesus' identity move a person to have faith in Him? (As we come to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, that truth presents to us two choices, accept Him, or reject Him. It is an eternal decision. We cannot recognize Him as Messiah without Him revealing Himself to us. He is always seeking out the lost.)

### **The man's response is a reminder that worship is the natural response to a life-changing experience with Jesus!**

4. Why is worship the natural response of one whose life has been changed because of Jesus? (When we realize what Jesus did for us and that it has eternal significance there is but one response—worship at His feet. As the hymn writer says, "Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, love so divine demands my soul, my life, my all.")
5. What changes can you make so your worship better reflects what Jesus has done for you?

## **SUMMARY AND CHALLENGE!**

1. Has your life been changed by Jesus?
2. Who do you think might benefit from hearing about how you came to be a follower of Jesus?
3. What actions can we, as a group, take to find and engage with people wanting to know about Jesus?

Close with this hymn:

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me,  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.**