“BLINDED BY THE LIGHT”

John 9: 5, 39

Here we have a real eye opening experience... of an eye opening experience!

The miracles in John's Gospel are referred to as “Signs” i.e MORE than just MIRACLES...

Heb 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

* One day at a busy airport, the passengers on a commercial airliner are seated waiting for the pilot to show up so they can get under way.

The pilot and copilot finally appear in the rear of the plane and begin walking up to the cockpit through the center aisle. Both are blind; the pilot is using a white cane, bumping into passengers right and left as he stumbles down the aisle. The copilot is using a guide dog. Both have their eyes covered with sunglasses.

At first, the passengers thought it must be some sort of practical joke. After a few minutes though, the engines start revving, and the airplane begins moving down the runway.

The passengers look at each other with some uneasiness. The plane starts accelerating rapidly, and people begin panicking. Some passengers are praying, and as the plane gets closer and closer to the end of the runway.

When the plane had less than twenty feet of runway left, there is a sudden change in the pitch of the shouts as everyone screams at once. At the very last moment, the plane lifts off and is airborne.

Up in the cockpit, the copilot breathes a sigh of relief and tells the pilot: "You know, one of these days the passengers aren't going to scream, and we aren't going to know when to take off!"

Jesus presents us with a paradox Verse 39-41

He explains that the light is so bright that the blind are able to see, while others are blinded by the light!

They had the hard evidence -- proof in plain sight... the man even makes the theological point in vs 30!

They didn’t see a messiah... they saw a man... they saw a nuisance from Nazareth.

They wouldn’t believe... so they couldn’t see.
Light is hard to handle for many. **Vs. 16** “there was division among them”

Try to open a package lately? It takes scissors— SHARP scissors—to get into anything nowadays- …and have you bought scissors lately? You need scissors—to get into scissors!

But Light bulbs?? A thin, thin piece of cardboard—open at both ends!!!! You better be careful!

**Vs 39 APPEARS to be ABSURD! It comes across as CONTRADICTORY**

In **vs. 10, 15, 19** and **26** the question asked was **HOW**, when what they should have looked at was **Who** healed!

Instead of allowing the light to lead them...they are **BLINDED by the LIGHT!**

### I. **THE REASON FOR THE MIRACLE** vs. 1

This man was **BORN BLIND**….he didn’t **BECOME** blind….

A dungeon of darkness and a blanket of blackness blocked out the S-U-N. And the S-O-N. * **vs.32**

He’d never seen a sunrise or a sunset…… the blue sky, the green grass….

….. the red on a rose or the smile of a child …..the face of a father or mother.

That was, until Jesus passed by!

**JESUS WASN’T A SIGHT SEER, HE WAS A SIGHT GIVER!**

Jesus had a **blind date**!

* One man said “I’ve been on so many blind dates, I should get a free dog!”

**A bad blind date.** Earlier, arranged to have a friend call him to the phone so he would have an excuse to leave if something like this happened. When he returned to the table, "I have some bad news. My grandma just died." "Thank heavens," his date replied. "If yours hadn't, mine would have had to!"

Jesus saw the blind man, though he couldn’t see Jesus.

Jesus saw Zacchaeus **up** a tree.....He saw Nathanael **under** a tree.

How horrible to go blind…even worse to be “born blind” -- so were -we!

**All manKIND is born BLIND!** We must be BORN **again**!

- explaining to a blind person that they **cannot see** is easy. They get it.

But explain to a **SEEING** person that **they** are blind? That’s **different**…and **difficult**… to do.

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**Diabolical deception 2 Cor 4:3-4** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

**John 3** “cannot SEE the kingdom of God”

**Verse 2 Why was he?**

~ Wasn’t personal sin.

Never see a police officer in Maternity ward “C’mon you’re coming w/me!”

~ Wasn’t prenatal sin

Jews believed (Mishna) before birth based on **Gen 26** Jacob and Esaua.

~ Some went even **further** back said **pre-exisitant** sin-
Plato taught that all souls were stored in a space before birth and you could get a good or bad soul.

Passage in Apocrophya-(not inspired) "I was a child by nature and a good soul was my lot" maybe he got bad one?

- The Idea still exists in “Karma” and re-incarnation, basically the same as a videogame. You die; you get another man. If you get enough points you get a free man.

* Wasn’t Parental sin-

Sadly some DO cause their children to suffer….. innocent children pay for their parents immorality. STDS and AIDS passed on by parents. Patterns of life as well. Passed on to prodigy.

Verse 3 Jesus’ answer was even harder to handle! Was it nature or nurture? NEITHER!

He was born blind- to bless! To make manifest a miracle.

Jn11:4 –“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.”

IT WAS NOT THE MAN’S SIN BUT THE MASTER’S SOVEREIGNTY THAT BROUGHT ABOUT HIS BLINDNESS!

Verse 4

1. To Reveal GOD’S Touch! “the works of God”
   
   There are spiritual “blind spots”, presumptions, and perceptions that block out the light.

2. To Reveal GOD’s Timing! “while it is day”
   
   Woman about to give birth “It’s time” Her husband was in such a hurry he jumped in the car honked and hollered “If you’re going with me you’d better hurry up!”
   
   Doesn’t work that way!

3. To Reveal GOD’s Truth “I am the light….”

II. THE RECORD OF THE MIRACLE vs. 6-8

(v. 6) Gives new meaning to the term “Here’s mud in yer eye!”

Jesus made this man more blind than he was when he started!

We use the expression “Clear as mud” to define the opposite of sight!

I have never understood cosmetic mud beauty treatments—

“I’ll put mud on my face so I’ll look better!” Some do look better , but then they wash it off! 😊

Ever had sand in your eye? Just one grain is a pain!

Imagine going to the doctor Bro N.S. “Here ya go——splat!”

I hate it when they blow AIR in there!

I hate eye drops——“Don’t blink!” ??? The don’t put stuff in my eye!!!!

Here we have divine Visine! Supernatural saliva!

Nothing that Jesus did is recorded accidentally, or coincidentally or incidentally.

→Jesus used spit in the healing of a deaf man (Mark 7) and another blind person. (Mark 8) ….3 x!

You’re not gonna believe this but the other day I saw a child with food on his face in Wal Mart , and his mama—hold on to your seat—spit on a Kleenex and wiped the food off his face—with the spit! Yes! I know! I’m not making this up!
This goes on all across the world on a daily basis *(Before they invented baby wipes that's all Mamas had!)*

Mamas spit can clean *children, countertops, chrome bumpers* . . . more amazing than Ajax!

We *smile* —we don’t *shudder*! Why? Because we know it is a mother’s care.

Spit— not *polite* . . . but it was *right*!

► Jesus spit **REALLY DID** have power! “*Spit is—a little of what YOU is!*”

When He spit n’ stirred, He was taking a little bit of Him and mixing it in!

He had **DYNAMITE DNA**! - the POWER comes form His PERSON!

This man never saw it coming!

- asked later *“What happened?”* “He anointed my eyes with clay and I washed in the pool and came seeing”

No mention of *spit*! Why?— He didn’t see Jesus do it! He didn’t even know!

Next year—I will be saved as long as I was lost!

But to this day, I am not sure what all God was doing in the background!

-- behind the scenes –God was doing things beyond my ability to see!

► **BTW** Jesus healed at least 3 blind **men**—not **mice**— differently.

In one case, He touched the blind man and he was healed.

In a 2nd , he spit on the ground and made mud …

In the 3rd case, he spit directly into the blind man’s eyes and he was healed.

* Now suppose these three blind men met one day and began comparing notes over a cup of coffee. They talked about how wonderful it was to see now.

Then one says , *“Do you remember when Jesus first spit and put his saliva on your eyes?”*

One of the other guys said, *“No, he just said, ‘Receive your sight’ and I could see.”*

The third guy said, *“Wait a minute. With me he put mud on my eyes.”*

Suddenly they start looking at each other distrustfully. This guy says, *“If Jesus didn’t use his saliva, then he didn’t heal you. You’re still blind!”*

One of the other guys said, *“Mud? Who ever heard of using mud. That’s the dumbest thing I’ve ever heard. You’re still blind!”*

Right then they formed 3 different denominations: The **mudites**, the **spitites**, and the **speakites**!

**METHODS** change:

Radio ministry—then TV ministry—Now internet!

Used to bring people to church in horse and buggy— *Bro Mayo remembers those days!*

*Why this way?*

I think Jesus way of **HEALING** the one, was **REVEALING** the blindness of the others!

**ALL THEY COULD SEE** was that He was “**Working**” on the Sabbath!!!!!!

They **MISS**ed the MIRACLE by focusing on the wrong thing!!!!!!

**Mt 23:24** “*Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.*”

They were more mixed up than the mud!
III. THE REACTION TO THE MIRACLE

The lost world cannot comprehend supernatural salvation

Right after he was EXPOSED to the LIGHT he was EXPELLED by the LEADERS!

A. The PEOPLE vs 8-12

B. The PHARISEES 13-18

They didn’t care if he could see, they only cared about their rules!

Their deliberation & Dishonesty vs 22 “agreed already” The rest was intellectual smokescreens

vs24 called Jesus a sinner

C. The PARENTS vs 19-23 — afraid of what others think!

D. The PERSON vs 24-27

vs. 11 “Jesus said to me...I went...washed...I received sight”

Conversion is GLORIOUS—not GRADUAL!—you are either a SAINT or a AIN’T!

But Conviction precedes conversion!

When I first got saved it took me a while to SEE some things….

~ ……slowly God shed some light (The Bible) on the subject PROPHECY-- TITHING -

There is a progression — …... when the light comes on…it takes a little while for your eyes to adjust!

....vs. 11 “a man” then the enlightenment continues as Jesus is elevated vs. 17 “…prophet….” …with increasing clarity……vs 18, 33 “…man of God”

Then vs. 38 “Lord” “he worshipped”

* Helen Keller is fascinating.

Bill Mann tells about the time he sang for Helen Keller. She placed her fingers on his lips and on his vocal cords as he sang, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" A tear trickled down her face. Indistinctly, with great difficulty, she said: "I was there!"

She saw through the eyes of faith.

Helen Keller “There is none so blind as he who will not see!”

* A Mining explosion in W. V. Several men were trapped in total darkness. When the rescue team managed to get a light through to them one of the young men said, "Why don’t the turn a light on?" The other men looked at him in amazement. Then they realized that the explosion had blinded the young man. In the darkness he didn’t know he was blind!

INVITATION:

* RE: John 8:12 I can hear him singing as he left…….

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

Paul was blinded by the light in Acts 8—the right way!

Vs 25 “know” not “think”

He wasn’t 75% sure He could see. He wasn’t 95% sure He could see—he was 100% sure!!!!

99% sure is not good enough. The question is…can you see?
**Vs 34** they didn’t want to admit that *they* were sinners!! **Vs. 40-41**

He’s *still* passing by!