

John 9:1-41...As Jesus was passing by, He saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples questioned Him: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” Jesus answered. “This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After He said these things He spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. ⁷ “Go,” He told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he left, washed, and came back seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who formerly had seen him as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the man who sat begging?” ⁹ Some said, “He’s the one.” “No,” others were saying, “but he looks like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man!” ¹⁰ Therefore they asked him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So when I went and washed I received my sight.” ¹² “Where is He?” they asked. “I don’t know,” he said. ¹³ They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ The day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ So again the Pharisees asked him how he received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” he told them. “I washed and I can see.” ¹⁶ Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for He doesn’t keep the Sabbath!” But others were saying, “How can a sinful man perform such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ Again they asked the blind man, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” “He’s a prophet,” he said. ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe this about him—that he was blind and received sight—until they summoned the parents of the one who had received his sight. ¹⁹ They asked them, “Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ “We know this is our son and that he was born blind,” his parents answered. ²¹ “But we don’t know how he now sees, and we don’t know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he’s of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said these things because they were afraid of the Jews, since the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him as Messiah, he would be banned from the synagogue. ²³ This is why his parents said, “He’s of age; ask him.” ²⁴ So a second time they summoned the man who had been blind and told him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner!” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether or not He’s a sinner, I don’t know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!” ²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” ²⁷ “I already told you,” he said, “and you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don’t want to become His disciples too, do you?” ²⁸ They ridiculed him: “You’re that man’s disciple, but we’re Moses’ disciples. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses. But this man—we don’t know where He’s from!” ³⁰ “This is an amazing thing,” the man told them. “You don’t know where He is from, yet He opened my eyes! ³¹ We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him. ³² Throughout history no one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, He wouldn’t be able to do anything.” ³⁴ “You were born entirely in sin,” they replied, “and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out. ³⁵ When Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, He found him and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?” he asked. ³⁷ Jesus answered, “You have seen Him; in fact, He is the One speaking with you.” ³⁸ “I believe, Lord!” he said, and he worshiped Him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and asked Him, “We aren’t blind too, are we?” ⁴¹ “If you were blind,” Jesus told them, “you wouldn’t have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see’—your sin remains.

John 9:1,2...As Jesus was passing by, He saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples questioned Him: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

In a few weeks we will look at this problem of evil in the world in John 11 - Theodicy – Problem of Evil

But today we are focusing on opportunity and challenge that Jesus lays before us to:

Open Our Eyes,
Believe in Jesus
Do His Work.

Close your eyes. Now, imagine yourself going about your daily activities this way. What did you do already today? How would it have gone with your eyes closed? <https://www.gbcdccatur.org/sermons/Mud.htm>

What a tragedy in life is blindness, both physical and spiritual. Which one is worse? They are both tragic, but spiritual blindness will send you to an eternal hell, whereas physically blindness is only a temporary condition to those who believe in Jesus. Can you imagine the joy that a person who has never seen anything, and the first thing they ever see is Jesus face?

Today’s passage is just one of five times in the gospels that Jesus healed blind people. Physical blindness was a very prevalent thing in those days, but in each instance the true focus is on the need to restore Spiritual Sight.

Let’s use the verses of a beloved old hymn to help us navigate through this passage:

Open My Eyes, That I May See (Hymn by Clara H. Scott. 1895)

1. Open my eyes that I may see

Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,

Ready, my God, Thy will to see;

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!

WHY DO WE NEED OUR SPIRITUAL EYES TO OPEN

a. For direction:

Psalm 119:12-18...¹² *Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.* ¹³ *With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.* ¹⁴ *I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.* ¹⁵ *I will meditate in thy precept and have respect unto thy ways.* ¹⁶ *I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.* ¹⁷ *Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.* ¹⁸ *Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*

b. To pray targeted prayer:

Romans 8:26-27... *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us*

Once our spiritual eyes is opened we will be able to pray the right prayer for the right situation.

c. To see new opportunities:

John 4:35... *“Don’t you say, ‘There are still four more months, and then comes the harvest’? Listen to what I’m telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready for harvest.*

Ephesians 5:15-17... *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.*

d. To see the deceptive work of Satan

e. To see the wonder working power of God:

CONSEQUENCES OF SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

- ❖ “Possibility of Wasted effort and stagnancy
- ❖ Failure and Missed opportunities
- ❖ Possibility of Praying amiss
- ❖ Possibility of going towards the wrong direction
- ❖ Lost hope
- ❖ Possibility of making Wrong decision”. <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/print?sermonId=234229>

In order to be Authentic & Genuine Followers of Christ, we must have our Spiritual Eyes opened so that we can see as Jesus saw.

Matthew 9:36...*When Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

We pass people everyday in our lives. Do you really SEE THEM. Take the time and carefully and prayerfully look for ways to meet people’s needs and share the love of Jesus, so they too can have their SPIRITUAL EYES OPENED!

2. Open my ears that I may hear

Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.

*Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!*

Next to the tragedy of loss of sight, would be the loss of hearing. Such beautiful words we would miss, dangers to avoid, words of encouragement to hear. Just like physical sight is sad, so is physical deafness. But as tragic as Physical deafness is, Spiritual Deafness is worse.

WE NEED OUR SPIRITUAL EARS OPENED FOR THESE REASONS

- ✓ TO HEAR FROM GOD

Jeremiah 33:3...*Call to me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.*

- ✓ To Do The Will Of God

Luke 11:28... *But Jesus said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”*

- ✓ TO HEAR THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE

Exodus 3:7... *Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people in Egypt and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors. I know about their sufferings.*

- ✓ TO AVOID ‘SPIRITUAL NOISE POLLUTION’ FROM THE WRONG VOICES.

John 9:25-27... *One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!*”²⁶ *Then they asked him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?”*”²⁷ *“I already told you,” he said, “and YOU DIDN’T LISTEN.*

- 3. Open my mouth and let me share**
Gladly the Good News everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.

*Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!*

Our last verse addresses our mouths. Just like the blindness and deafness, being mute – unable to speak is a physically tragic thing. But to be SPIRITUALLY MUTE, is the greater tragedy.

Ephesians 4:29... *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

Psalms 19:14 ... *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

Notice the ‘Progression of Confession’ in this story

First, Faith Develops Progressively

- **Man** - ¹¹ *He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, ‘Go to **Siloam and wash.**’ So when I went and washed I received my sight.”*
- **Prophet** - ¹⁷ *Again they asked the blind man, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” “He’s a prophet,” he said.*
- **Lord** - ³⁸ *“**I believe, Lord!**” he said, and he worshiped Him.*

Second, Jesus sees us as we could be, not just as we are.

Third, we understand and grow in faith when we remember and repeat the stories about when Jesus healed us. If by chance you don’t remember any of those times, pray and think about it today and through the upcoming week. I believe you will remember a time or two when you have felt God’s presence in a crisis or a joyful moment.” <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/open-our-eyes-anne-benefield-sermon-on-miracles-of-jesus-119416?ref=SermonSerps>

(vs. 9) *“I am the man!”*

(vs. 25) *“I was blind, and now I can see”!*

(vs. 38) *“I believe, Lord”!*

This story turned out well for the formerly blind man. He not only regained His physical sight, He also gained a deep Spiritual Sight that made a difference in his life.

What about you...

Are your eyes open to God?

Are your ears open to His call?

Is your mouth open to share the Good News of Salvation?

We all were ‘once blind’, but if we choose we can be made whole spiritually and be able to be the “Authentic & Genuine Followers of Christ” that Christ deserves and the world desperately needs.

Have you said to Jesus... *“I believe, Lord”*? Today is a great day to have your sight, hearing and speech awakened by God. Choose now!