

## JESUS AND THE BLIND MAN

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John 9:1-41

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*Through this encounter with the blind man and the religious leaders, Jesus teaches us how to overcome spiritual blindness with the light of his love.*

**Jesus:** What a day. These religious leaders really put me on the spot, I didn't really want to smack them in the eye with the truth but they insisted with their saying "are you calling us blind." All I could say was, "yep, Blind as a bat! OF course I put it in language they would understand, even though it offended them."

**Blind Man:** I'll say. I'm still waiting for the celebration; I was a blind, destitute beggar, with the dust and dirt of all who passed me by clinging to my clothes and to my very self. Yet you use the very dirt around me, and your spit to make me see. (pause)

And I DO! You'd think one person, even my parents might want to celebrate, but noooo! they want to figure it out, they want to ask who, what, where, why, when.

**Jesus:** Even my disciples journeying with me day in and day out, who saw me teach Nicodemus, and share living water with the woman at the well, they don't even ask how can we help you, a begging blind man. They should have known better. They are more interested in whose fault it was, whose sin it was that caused you to be blind, as if everything that happens has to have someone or something to blame

**Blind Man:** It sometimes makes me wonder, who are the ones that are really blind.  
(now that I see, I see that I was not alone in my blindness.

**Jesus:** I even had to justify my giving you sight, by explaining "I am the light of the world,' before I could even show them, Again! That God is at work in their world. I am here to help them see God's glory shining with the brightness of the noon day sun all around them.

**Blind Man:** I'm no expert on God's actions in the world, but aren't these religious leaders and folks. I mean, here I am, 'once I was blind, but now I see,' and even though I explained it to them twice, they refused to see, and they call me a sinner.

**Jesus:** Well, it just goes to show, 'there are none so blind as those who refuse to see.'  
But how are you now that you can see.

**Blind Man:** I have to tell you I see far more than I ever imagined I could see. I not only see the world, I see the fear and defensiveness that blinds so many around me. I almost think I am more grateful about seeing God at work in the world and in me, than I am being able to see with my eyes. I see with the eyes of my heart, 'Oh yes, I know, Oh yes, I know; God is good and loves me so!'

**Jesus:** Would that we would be having a party, instead of an argument. I can only imagine how you must have felt, when they intimidated your parents with their veiled threats asking; ‘who does he say he is?’ And ‘who do you think he is?’ ‘How you were healed and by whom?’

**Blind Man:** At least they could tell some of the truth, I am their child and I was blind, but they sure didn’t want to cross these religious authorities. They kind of hung me out to dry before them.

**Jesus:** But my brother, you stood up when everyone else was falling down, the light shining in your eyes and in your soul would not be snuffed out by their questioning and accusations. In fact the Light of Life that overcame your blindness, shown with the light of God on the darkness of the souls of those questioning you. Though the light of God was shining they preferred the darkness of just what they knew and thought, rather than what God was revealing.

**Blind Man:** Will some believe? Will they see the light before them? Will they ever shine with your light?

**Jesus:** All I, or any of us with the light can do, is invite all people to open the eyes of their heart so they can receive and shine with the glory of God in caring for others. Like Isaiah said: “Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I am about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it?” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

**Blind Man:** You know what, even though no one else seems ready to celebrate God’s glory shining on me and around us, there is joy in my heart and I rejoice, “Once I was blind, but now I see.”

**Jesus:** That is what I have been sent to do, shine with (reveal) the glory of the One who sent me. If only they would see.

**Blind Man:** You give us food for our souls and we ask who baked it, where did you get it and who said you could feed our souls. I for one, have been fed, my eyes and my heart opened and I give glory to God.

‘Oh yes, I know, Oh yes, I know; God is good and loves me so!’

**Jesus:** My friend, come, walk with me in the light of the day. Come let’s share this simple meal.