



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel

John 9:35-41

From Sermon 4.7.24

Read *John 9:35-41*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: The man born blind has not only gained his sight but has endured his first trial and tribulation for being associated with Jesus. For him, it carried great consequences: namely the removal from all Temple and synagogue life. Likely that meant estrangement from his parents and family as well. But Jesus is not done with him, He was elected unto salvation for the foundation of the world. His spiritual transformation now begins.

1. Throughout Scripture, blindness is a metaphor for what? Spiritual darkness. Living in sin. Blindness to the truth of God, Scripture, and salvation. [Also, what Reformed Doctrine? Total Depravity]. Read and discuss these Scripture examples:

- *Isaiah 43:8*—_____
- *Jeremiah 5:21*—_____
- *Matthew 15:14*—_____
- *Revelation 3:17-18*—_____

2. Just as the formerly blind man responded to Jesus in faith after receiving his sight, what is the guaranteed outcome for all those God has elected and called unto salvation? Because He does all the work and not man = All those God has chosen for salvation will come to Christ. [Also, what Reformed Doctrine is that? Irresistible Grace] See also *John 6:37 & Acts 13:48*

3. What was meant, on Sunday, when it was said: "Don't settle for the peddle or don't be settling for what they are peddling?" The modern western church wants to promote and offer health, wealth, prosperity, self-esteem, & manifesting power. Those things are worldly, temporary, and not consistent with Scripture. While they may attract a crowd and bring in the dollars, Jesus never promised those things. He offers eternal life and reconciliation with Holy God. He gives freedom from sin, guilt, and shame. He promises peace*, comfort*, prosperity, and an inheritance in the next life—never this one.

4. Re-read *John 9:39*. Now read *John 3:17*. Is this a contradiction in Christ and, therefore, a contradiction in the Scriptures? Not at all. That can never happen. When we encounter a supposed contradiction, it is always our understanding that is wrong, never the Scriptures.

4a. How do we reconcile these two seemingly opposite truths? It appears a couple of things are going on here. Jesus could be, again, alluding to the purpose and mission of His 1st Coming to that of His 2nd Coming. His 1st Coming was to bring truth, offer life, and pay the full sin price for the elect. That truth and offer, in Him, always brings judgment upon those who reject it. Additionally, we might have the wrong judge in our interpretation. In other words, Jesus always forces a verdict. "Who do you say that I am?" Man is the judge in this case. Jesus' Words and life force a decision. See also *Matthew 16:13-17*

5. What is your favorite lesson or truth from chapter 9? Various Personal Answers.