

Spiritual Sight
John 9:35-41

Introduction

As we re-enter the book of John I thought we needed a reminder of the basics, the overall purpose of the gospel.

John 20:31 says, *these things have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.*

The story of the man born blind functions as a kind of centerpiece for John's purpose. The drama setting up these verses is a tragedy. Jesus heals a man born blind. Everyone should be rejoicing, but the religious leaders aren't. The story helps us understand:

who is Jesus,
what did he come to do in this world,
why do we need him,
and what keeps us from him.

The key word that frames our answer is in v.39: *For judgment I came into this world.*

1. A condemning judgment

v.39 *For judgment I came into this world...that those who see may become blind.*

What kind of people is Jesus talking about?

Jesus' way of describing folks who *think* they get it spiritually but *actually* do not. In our culture we have two variations on this:

a. the non-religious spiritual.

Do you see any problems here? In what way does Jesus judge that?
That those who see may become blind

1) You're really establishing a little kingdom where you are god.

2) If there is a God who stands outside of human making, you're on a

collision course with Him.

3) Designer religion simply fails to come to grips with human creatureliness or independence.

b. the religious

The Pharisees (v.40) are asking religious questions, *We are not blind too, are we?*- What's Jesus' answer? *Your sin remains.*

People tend to see sin in one of two main ways, if they take it seriously at all:

- a. a religious view of sin tends to measure it by large, severe moral transgressions:
- b. sin is a presence within that stands ready to assert itself against your best intentions.

2. A saving judgment: He leads the blind to sight

V.25 *one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.*

V.36 *And who is he Lord that I may believe?*

V.35 *Jesus went for him.*

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

For judgment I came into this world. That statement only makes sense when we see its double meaning.

On the one hand, Jesus judges the condition of man.

On the other hand, *for judgment I came into this world means*, I came into this world to bear the judgment of the spiritually blind. The cross was the awful place of God's judgment, falling on the Son of God for all who want to see spiritually.