

## When the Light of the World Shines In the Darkness

1. The Blind Receive Sight
2. Some Are Blinded by the Light
3. The Light Keeps Shining, Even When That Light Is Hard to See

### Introduction

- Today J: vs. 5. Ch before this: **“I am lght/wrld. Whoever follows me will nvr walk in drkns, but will have the lght of life” (8:12)**. Today meet man wlkng in drkns; had no light. Born blind; never seen a thing: parents, home, world around, even own face mirror – wlkng in drkns. I remem time I wlkng in drkns. Not quite 3 yrs ago, July 2017 – summer of great Burl flood. You remem: dark time for comnty; lot ppl lost lot proprty; streets lined w/piles wtr-dmngd blngngs. Also dark time bec lost elctrcy; whole nghbrhd dark. I remem: going down into basmnt one night get supplies; all had: little flshlght – really dark; walkng in drkns! Finly when pwr restrd, new apprctn for being able simply flip swtch, instly have lght. In today's gos, J flips on swtch; turns on lgts for this man born blind. And he can do that bec J is lght/wrld. And Jn 9 shows us what happens WHEN.

### The Blind Receive Sight

- 1<sup>st</sup>: blnd rec sght. Whole ch dedctd to this 1 story re 1 man, born blind, heald by J. Details, admittldly peculiar. **Vs. 6**. Why do this? Well, this just a compst, tactile way for J say: “Can fell this? This where I'm going heal you.” So he's got mudpack on eyes, and J: **vs. 7**. Simple as that. For 1<sup>st</sup> time in life, retinas worked; drkns lift; exprncd lght! Just imagine, lookng around, seeng ppl, anmls, bldngs, trees – for very 1<sup>st</sup> time! WHEN, blnd rec sght.
- But: this nt greatst mircl takes plc in this lesson. No, there's anthr mircl here doesn't invlv retinas. This man also spirtly blnd; unbel: didn't know J; had no faith in J; didn't see J as his Sav from sin. So this man walkng not only in phys drkns but also spirtl drkns. So J flipd on swtch, turnd on lght/faith. At very end, **vs. 35b, When J found** (wndrfl word! bec when you're spirtly blnd, w/o faith in Xp, you're lost; but J lookd, *found*; reminds Amazing Grace – I once lost/found, blnd/see). **Vs. 35bc-38**. Wasn't just 20/20 vision man recd from J that day; J also opend his eyes/faith. The lght/wrld enlghtnd this man w/lght gospel, so now believed in J as Sav by faith.
- That's a mircl J's done us, as well. Even if you've nvr been physcly blnd, you were born spirtly blind; born in sin/unbelf. Eph 5, **“You were once drkns, but now you are lght in the Lord” (5:8)**. And 1 Pt says God **“calld you out of drkns into his wndrfl lght” (2:9)**. Drkns of unbelf is much darker than my bsmnt w/o elctrcy. W/o light/Xp, you can't see how much Sav loves you, how shed bld crs redm you; can't see how he's forgvn all sins, givn inhrtnc hvn. Can't see any of that when spirtly blnd. And that's who you were, but not are, bec lght/wrld shind in your drkns. J brought u to faith, baptdz u into his fam, so that now u can see your Sav w/eyes faith. “I once lost/found, blnd/see.” And that's greatst mircl J can do for anyone, bec can get to hvn w/o eyesght, but not w/o faith. WHEN, blnd rec sght.

### Some Are Blinded by the Light

- But unftrntly smtms when J shines lght/gosp in wrld, some ppl actuly blindd by lght. We see that here w/Phars. J perfms this amzng mircl for blnd man; Phars jump on it like commtd crime. If look whole ch (Jn 9), Phars: get mad that J did on Sab; so intrgt man, then grill man's parnts, finly haul man in for 2<sup>nd</sup> intrgt, always w/mockng, intmdtng tone. Evently man pushes back: **“I have told u alrdy and u did nt listn. Why do u want hear it again? Whthr he is a sinner or nt, I don't know. 1 thng I do know. I was blnd but now I see! Nobdy has ever hrd of openng the eyes of a man born blnd. If this man were nt from God, he could do nothng” (9:27,25,32-33)**. Pushes back; and here's how Phars respond: **vs. 34**, which means: kicked out chrch; excomtd from Jewsh syng. That's like saying: you're no longer son Abr or chld God; now you're just a pagan. Threw out, bec...
- Blinded by lght. Think irony here: blind man can now see, both physcly & spirtly – he's got best vision of anyone in this story. But those who think can see are actuly the blind ones. Phars were relgs

schlrs of day, and had promsd Mes perfmng mircls right in front faces. But couldn't see; refused see that J is Son/God. **Vs. 39.** Blinded by light.

- We may ask, how could be so blind? But let me ask you this: what are your blind spots? What you nt seeng clrly? Maybe there's sin in your life u refus ackndg. Maybe you have a pet sin, smthng u know wrong, but like it, want keep doing, so kinda ignore – blind spot! Or maybe tryng jstfy your sin by thnkng: what I'm doing nowhere near bad as others; she desrvd what I did to her, had it coming; I'm good prsn, do lot good things, God going have be okay w/this – blind spot; not seeng thngs clrly! If you're holdng on to a sin that don't want let go of, that's spirtrl blindns. 1 Jn 2: **“Anyone who claims to be in the lght but hates a bro/sis”** (1 exmpl holding on to a sin) **“is still in the drkns...and walks arnd in the drkns. They do not know where they are going, bec the drkns has blinded them” (2:9,11).** Don't be blind to your own sin; recgnz your blind spots; repent of them; turn from them, so that you can see your Sav, and his plan for your life, more clrly. Paul: **“Live as children of light” (Eph 5:8).** Don't be blinded by lght.

### *The Light Keeps Shining, Even When That Light Is Hard to See*

- Finly, WHEN, 3. Here's what mean: I bet man's parents had hard time seeng why God'd let baby boy be born blnd. I bet man wndrd: God, why evryon else see, but nt me? Even discs wndrd: **vs. 2.** And I think when we see suffrng/pain, disease/death, cancer/coronavirus all arnd us, smtms we have hard time seeing lght/wrld too. It's hard see how lovgng God could let such drkns intrude into our lives, lives those we love. We all know ppl who suffrng; we all exprnc suffrng ourslvs. So when J says, “I am lght/wrld,” smtms think: Well, I'm just not seeng that lght.
- Xmas Eve 2014. PDW preachd the sermon; made very membl commnt re diary entry made by teenage girl suffng from cancer. In diary: “Moon is round. I know round, even when can't see it.” See: a lot times, postn of earth or clouds in sky make moon hard see. Smtms can only see sliver; smtms can't at all. But wrote: “I know moon round, and know God loves me, even when hard see.”
- WHEN, hard see. We may nvr undrstnd why God allows blndns, disease, death; why doesn't stop car crashes, heart attacks, strokes; why permits trndos, mass shootngs, epidemics like coronavirus, & myriad other trials we suff in life. But today: **vs. 3b.** God had plan for this blind man. **Jer 29:11, I know. Rom 8:28, we know.** God has lovgng plan/purps for evrythng does. He did for blnd man; does for us too. And when that's hard see, remem: moon is still round, and the lght/wrld still shining.

### *Conclusion*

- That day, a blind man recd his sight. You too have recd sight; you no longer walk in drkns. That's a gift from God; and that's what haps WHEN.

### **John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39**

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. <sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>34</sup> To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he [Jesus] found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”