



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Thursday, February 9, 2023
Scripture: John 9:35-41
TITLE: Once Was Blind

I love conversion stories. Those incredible moments when people finally see their need for Christ and ultimately believe in Him. One such story is that of Christopher Yuan. Christopher was a gay agnostic drug dealer who found himself in prison. At his sentencing, his mother told the judge to give her son the exact time to change his heart and receive Jesus.

He hated God. He didn't want Jesus. But at a moment of complete brokenness, He finally could see Jesus for all His beauty and His own spiritual blindness. He got saved and the rest is history.

Jesus shares some scandalous and wonderful truths as we close out the troubling story of the blind beggar in John 9:35-41.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

As you may recall, the blind man, after being confronted by the Pharisees for the second time gets kicked out of the synagogue. He wasn't going to play their games. He was healed by Jesus. Who cares? But they hate Jesus. They want to be recognized as the way to God. Not someone else. So they excommunicate him.

And who finds him? Jesus. Jesus is the good shepherd who goes after the sheep. He came to seek and save the lost. Not set up a gauntlet of religion. So after just a couple of hours of being kicked out on the street, Jesus finds the man.

The exchange is simple. Jesus asks, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" This was to say, "Do you believe in the Messiah? The man wants to but is not sure who that is. Jesus says, "It's me." The man says, "I do believe." And he worships Jesus. This is the right response to our spiritual healing. We see Jesus as Savior and Lord. The only response is worship.

And then the story ends tragically for the Pharisees. They think they can see, but they are blind. They cannot see their need for Jesus because they close their eyes harder, pretending to see.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He shines brightly so we might see our need for Him. But, as you recall from John 3, the world loves the darkness.

If you've never trusted in Jesus as your savior, I encourage you to reconsider your life and your spiritual health. If you're far from God, you are blind. But Christ can make you see. He can make you well. He can bring you the peace you've always longed for. Simply believe.

For those of us who are no longer blind, may we never forget how lost and blind we were. But because of Christ's great love for us, we now can see.