

Do You Believe in the Son of Man?

John 9:35-41

Thought for the Day. In order to receive God's gift of salvation, we must be willing to admit that we are spiritually blind sinners in need of a savior. And, we must believe that Jesus Christ is that Savior.

John 9:1-34 recounts the story of how Jesus gave physical sight to a man born blind. Verses 35-41 tell us how Jesus also gave spiritual sight to that same man.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

- "Son of Man" is an Old Testament title for the Messiah.
- Jesus was asking, "Are you ready to place your faith in Me as the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament?"
 - In order to be saved, we must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God—God in human flesh. (John 20:30-31)
 - When we are baptized, we give public testimony that we believe certain truths about who Jesus Christ is (His Person), and certain truths about the significance of His death, burial, and resurrection (His Work) on our behalf.

36 He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."

- Note the similarity of Jesus' response here to His words to the woman of Samaria (John 4:24-26).
 - In both cases, Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah.
 - In order for us to be saved, we must believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God—God in human flesh.
- The Greek word (*kurios*) translated "sir" in verse 36 is the exact same Greek word translated "Lord" in verse 38.
 - In verse 36, it is used as a term of respect; but in verse 38, it is a term of worship.
 - It is one thing to recognize and respect Jesus as a good man, a religious teacher, even a miracle worker. But this is not enough to get us saved!
 - We must come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God—God in human flesh—who came to save us from our sins.
 - "Lord," as the term is used in verse 38 is an acknowledgement that Jesus is the Christ, the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament who came to save us from our sins.

38 He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

- Genuine faith results in the worship of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- "At this the man simply and sweetly placed his faith in the Lord Jesus and fell down and worshiped Him. He was now a saved soul as well as a healed man. What a great day this had been in his life! He had received both physical and spiritual sight." (*MacDonald, p. 2145*)

- He worshipped the Lord, not just for what He had done for him, but for who He was—God in human form. This is the highest form of worship!
- Review the handout: *What does it mean that Jesus is the "Son of Man"?*

39 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

- Jesus was not speaking about physical sight; He was talking about spiritual sight.
- He was not speaking to the man who had just confessed his faith in Him as the Messiah; He was speaking to those who were watching and listening.
- Jesus' actions and teachings bring separation and judgment between those who believe, and are saved, and those who reject, and are lost. (John 3:16-19)
- He did not come to judge but to save. "However, judgment is the inevitable result for all who fail to receive Him. The preaching of the gospel has two effects. Those who admit that they do not see are given sight. But those who insist that they can see perfectly, without the Lord Jesus, are confirmed in their blindness." (*MacDonald, p. 2146*)

40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

- The question they asked, "Are we also blind?" expected a negative answer: "No, of course you're not blind—you are the religious leaders of Israel! You're the spiritually elite!"
- Instead, Jesus was telling them they were spiritually blind and lost in their sins!
- They refused to acknowledge their spiritual blindness; therefore, they could not receive God's gift of salvation.
- "The Lord's answer may be paraphrased as follows: 'If you admit that you are blind and sinful, and that you need a Savior, then your sins can be forgiven you, and you can be saved. But you profess that you are in need of nothing. You claim that you are righteous and that you have no sin. Therefore, there is no forgiveness of sins for you.'" (*MacDonald, p. 2146*)

Consider:

- Have you admitted to God that you are spiritually blind and sinful, and that you need a Savior?
- Have you acknowledged that Jesus Christ is the Savior you need?
- Have you confessed and repented of your sins?
- Have you invited Jesus to come into your life and save you from your sins?