

New Testament Church  
*The Book of John #18 – John 9:17-41 – Spiritual Blindness*  
May 31, 2026 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Gospel of John - Why expository preaching and why the Book of John at this time?

- A. Expository preaching brings depth, continuity and helps a congregation study together
  - 1. John reveals Christ as God – (eagle) - “behold your God” (Is. 40:9)
  - 2. The gospels reveal the “four faces” of Christ – king, servant, man, eagle
- B. John, author of John, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> John and Revelation was a disciple of John the Baptist
  - 1. One of the sons of Zebedee (Salome his mother), a fisherman with Simon & Andrew
  - 2. ***John began as a critic but learned the balance of truth, grace and love...***
- C. One of the themes in John are the various ***signs*** that indicate critical aspects of Christ
  - 1. The **first SIGN** was water into wine (John 2) – there is New Life in Christ
  - 2. The **second SIGN** was healing the Nobleman’s son (John 4) – faith in Christ’s Word
  - 3. The **third SIGN** was healing the cripple (John 5) – Christ’s undeserving Grace
  - 4. The **fourth SIGN** feeding the 5,000 (John 6) – Christ is the bread of life
  - 5. The **fifth SIGN** of walking on water (John 6) – Transcendance of Bread (empowerment)
  - 6. The **sixth SIGN** of healing the man born blind (John 9) – Spiritual Sight (through Christ)
- D. The **I AM** statements by Jesus – declaring who He is...
  - 1. In John 6 - **I am the Bread of Life**
  - 2. In John 8 - **I am the Light of the World**

II John 9:17-41 – Spiritual Blindness – a proud heart that lacks *eleos* – Greek for compassion, mercy

- A. v. 17-34 – To heal a man born blind on the Sabbath was to expose Jewish leaders’ blindness
  - 1. First, *question the miracle* – a premise from a hard heart that this miracle cannot be from God
  - 2. Second, *separate the miracle from Jesus* – Jesus could not have done this – He is not from God
  - 3. Third, *deny cause and effect* – redefine reality and original sin (not mine, but others’ sin)
  - 4. Fourth, *adopt circular reasoning* – to be of God you keep the Sabbath the way we regulate it; Jesus does not keep it our way, thus Jesus is not from God (faulty premise, faulty conclusion)
    - a. Faulty premise – only the ungodly suffer great afflictions (remove the disabled), this man was born blind and grew up that way, thus, he is wicked or at least his parents are
    - b. John 1:1 – *In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God*
    - c. Logic a derivation of Logos – you begin with premises in the Bible (by faith)
  - 5. The man born blind had spiritual insight – v. 30-33 – *if Jesus is not of God, he couldn’t do this*
  - 6. Logical reasoning alone cannot solve spiritual blindness – revelation and reasoning does that!
  - 7. **We must first recognize that we are all spiritually blind in areas and don’t realize it**
  - 8. **We must also discern those to whom we minister and pray for spiritual revelation!**
- B. v. 35-38 – The gospel is a revelation of who Jesus is – it is the answer to power and control
  - 1. The man born blind was excommunicated from the synagogue
  - 2. Excommunication in that day ignored God’s purpose (to realize the sin and repent)
  - 3. It often resulted in separation from one’s parents (as it may have here)
  - 4. Jesus sought the man out – shepherding is going to find people who are mistreated
    - a. He may have lost his natural family, but gained a new one (Psalm 27:10)
    - b. We must remember that we are the only family some may ever experience
  - 5. Power and authority can corrupt and bring blindness to the truth – we see this everywhere
- C. v. 39-41 – Jesus (the truth – the Word) brings clarity – judgment – discernment
  - 1. *For judgment I have come into the world, those who do not see will, those that do made blind*
  - 2. Some of the Pharisees heard these words, and said what we should, *are we blind also?*
  - 3. *“If you were blind, you would have no sin, but you say, we see, therefore your sin remains”*
  - 4. **Once we recognize our blindness, we are heading for regeneration or greater maturity!**