

Jesus the One Who Heals Our Spiritual Blindness

John 9v1-41

I INTRODUCTION

- A) Sin is the anything that separates us from the life of God (Eph. 2v1-3; 4v18). In a Guilt-Innocence value system this primarily relates to transgressing God's Law, but in Honour-Shame culture, it concerns the broken relationship with God. The blind man's encounter with Jesus shows that Humanity needs Jesus to remove our shame and restore us to a right relationship with the Father.

II A MAN BORN BLIND (v1-7)

- A) Disciples notice Jesus noticing (v1)
- B) Disciple's question about scope of sin (v2-3)
- C) Jesus removes shame/restores honour (v3-4)
- D) Jesus: Light of the World (v5; 1v4-9; 3v19-21; 8v12)

III A NEW MAN (v8-12)

- A) Neighbours don't recognize man (v8-9)
- B) "The man they call Jesus" (v11)
- C) Where is he? -> I don't know (v12)
- D) Do you know what Jesus' voice sounds like?

IV THE PHARISEES DISAGREE (v13-17)

- A) Sabbath (v14): Jesus threatens Pharisees oral traditions (5v9-10)
- B) Division because either Jesus is wrong or the Pharisees are (v16)
- C) Listening to them, the Blind Man comes to his own conclusion (v17)
- D) Have you ever used convoluted logic to hide from the truth?

V PARENTS AVOID CONFRONTATION & FURTHER SHAME (v18-23)

- E) Already have shame in the community (cf. v2)
- F) Answer truthfully, but distance themselves from their son (v21)
- G) APP: Ever been ashamed of Jesus? (Rom. 1v16)

VI THE BLIND MAN CAST OUT (v24-34)

- A) "Pharisees threaten: toe the line... or else (v24; 5v44)
- B) Blind man makes his choice and breaks all honour-shame rules (v25f)
 - i) Refuses indirectly to answer question (v24)
 - ii) Refuses to repeat his story and mocks elders (v27)
 - iii) Pharisees respond aggressively and defend honour/motives (v28)
 - iv) Blind man mocks their authority, logical argument, and states belief about Jesus (v30-33)
- C) The shame of sin demands separation (v34): before God all humanity in utter sin -> death is the ultimate removal

VII JESUS RESTORES THE BLIND MAN'S HONOUR (v35-38)

- A) Jesus seeks out the shamed man (v35)
- B) The Blind Man still not seen Jesus (v36)
- C) The Messiah reveals himself; an unusual, unique honour (v37)

VIII CONCLUSION (v39-41)

- A) The Blind and Those Who See, But Refuse to Look (v40-41)
- B) Jesus comes for judgement (5v21-24) and he removes our sin (Rom 5; Col. 2v13-15; Heb. 13v11-14)
- C) Honour-Shame cultures try to make themselves right with God by hiding and/or self-honouring.
- D) Evangelism: the Gospel needs to respond to the needs of a particular cultural value system. In Honour-Shame: need to show how Jesus saves us from our shame and restores relationship with the Father.