

The Blind Man's Sight and the Pharisee's Blindness

John 9:35–41 is the powerful conclusion to the healing of the man born blind—and it functions as both a **spiritual climax** and a **judgment scene**.

Let's break it down verse by verse, and then summarize the meaning.

John 9:35–41 – Verse-by-Verse Explanation

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

- **"Cast him out"**: The healed man was excommunicated from the synagogue (John 9:34)—a serious consequence.
- **Jesus seeks him out**—a beautiful echo of the Good Shepherd (John 10).
- The question, "Do you believe in the **Son of Man**?" references **Daniel 7:13–14**, Messianic title with divine authority.

 **36 – "He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?'"**


- The man is **open-hearted and eager**, not resistant like the Pharisees.
- Though he has already defended Jesus (v. 30–33), he is still growing in spiritual understanding.

 **37 – "Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.'"**

- This is **only the second time in John's Gospel** (after John 4:26) that Jesus clearly declares His identity as the **Messiah** to someone directly.
- It's also beautifully ironic: **the man who was born blind is now seeing the Son of Man**—both physically and spiritually.

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

- The man now **confesses faith and worships**—a rare phrase in John, which usually reserves worship for God alone.
- This shows his **full spiritual sight**: recognizing Jesus not only as healer, but as **divine Lord**.

 **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' coming divides people: those **humbly blind** receive sight, and those **arrogantly "seeing"** are blinded. This echoes themes from **Isaiah 6:9–10** and John 3:19–21.
- Though His mission was not to condemn (John 3:17), **He becomes a judgment test** based on people's response to Him.

 **40 – "Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things and said to him, 'Are we also blind?'"**

- They realize Jesus' words are directed at them, but they **respond with sarcasm and pride**.
- Their question shows they believe they are spiritually superior and insulted by the implication otherwise.

 **41 – "Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.'"**

- **If they admitted their blindness**, they could be helped.
- But since they **claim to see** (i.e., understand God, law, truth), they are **accountable** for rejecting the Light.
- This is a **condemnation of spiritual pride** and a declaration of judgment on the religious elite.

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Summary

Theme	Meaning
Spiritual sight vs blindness	The blind man sees more clearly than the religious leaders.
Faith leads to worship	True spiritual sight leads to belief and worship of Jesus as Lord.
Judgment through revelation	Jesus brings a division: humble hearts gain sight, proud hearts are blinded.
Pride leads to blindness	Claiming to see while rejecting truth keeps one in guilt.



Big Takeaway

This passage teaches that **spiritual perception** does not come from religious status or intellect, but from **humble faith**.

Jesus is the **Light of the World**—but people must **admit their darkness** to receive it.



The Pharisees' refusal to acknowledge their need becomes their condemnation.



The formerly blind man's openness and growth in faith leads to eternal life and worship.