

“WHEN I AM DOWN, HE PICKS ME UP”

John 9:35-41

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INTRODUCTION

The Lord has always been in the business of helping “the down and out.” **But not just any down and out people; He helps those who acknowledge their need (that they are blind and need His help—not just for their physical circumstances, but also for their spiritual circumstances.** *When we are proud and self-sufficient, we will get no help from the Lord. When we think that we have life’s answers solved, or that we can solve them ourselves, we will remain in our messy situation.*

He was willing, but he would not have found the Lord on his own. The Lord sought him out. So it is in our lives. When we were saved, we may have thought that we searched for Jesus, but it was really Jesus searching for us! For, “no man seeks after God” (Rom. 3:11).

- Are you a believer who is “down?”—Jesus will pick you up. **Trust Him!**
- Are you not yet a believer who has repented of your sin and been forgiven and miraculously saved through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross and through His powerful resurrection from the dead—Jesus will “pick you up” and save you.—**Trust Him!**

I. JESUS SEARCHES FOR THE HELPLESS (35-38)

A. The demand of Faith—“Do you believe in the “Son of God” (“Man”)? (35)

1. Faith must be in the right Person—The Messiah from God.
2. Faith must identify Jesus as that right Person.

Any other identity will leave the person in his sins, still helpless and lost.

B. The Information of Faith (36-37)

1. “Who is He, Sir that I may believe in Him?”

Note his **eagerness** to know the truth, to get the facts.

2. The One you have seen and whom you are hearing is He.

Faith is absolutely worthless unless it is placed in the correct object—person!

C. The Expression of Faith (38)

1. “**Lord, I believe.**”
2. “He worshiped Him.”

II. JESUS CONDEMNS THE SELF-SUFFICIENT (39-41)

A. Jesus’ coming into the world results in Judgment (39)

The responses to His person and work necessitates people taking sides—some are thereby condemned by their rejection of Him.

1. “Those who **do not see may see.**”

This refers to a person who recognizes his need and is dissatisfied with his condition and wants deliverance.

Compare other comparisons by Jesus: He came to heal *those who are sick*; He came *to save sinners* (Mt. 9:12, 13). The Father reveals Himself to “babes.” (Mt. 11:25)

2. “Those **who see may become blind.**”

This refers to a person who is self righteous and self-sufficient and who does not acknowledge his spiritual need. They say that they see, but don’t. Compare Mt. 9:12-13: He did not come to heal *they that are whole.*” He did not come to save *the righteous*. The Father does not reveal Himself to *the wise and prudent* (Mt. 11:25).

These men had confidently spoken concerning Jesus: “We know that this man is a sinner” (v. 24); and concerning the healed blind man they said, “Do you teach us?”

In their eyes they did not have spiritual needs; they were OK. They are thus separated from the light; He rejects them according to their reactions to His person. He shows them conclusively to be blind men—men for whom **seeing is not possible—they are blind!**

B. Self-Righteous Sinners will not have their sin removed (40-41)

1. The Incredulous Question (40)

“**We** are not blind also, are we?” Not us—of all people!
We are the teachers of the Law; we know God and His truth!

2. The Surprising Answer (41)

Jesus’ answer is somewhat unexpected; He does not call them blind.

a. “If you were blind, you would have no sin.” *This means either: If you were in the category of those who recognize and turn from their blindness;*

or: If you were really ignorant of God’s truth and law, and did not know the teachings about the Messiah, then you are not responsible.

b. “But now you say, ‘We see.’” (This is only their claim; not the reality.)

c. “Your sin remains.” **(It will never be removed.)**

The first category confess their ignorance and strive against it.

The second category deny their ignorance and strive against instruction.

CONCLUSION

Those with “eyes wide open”—who really see—are those who have the surrender of FAITH IN JESUS.

Jesus is looking for those who are **down—He wants to pick you up!**

Are you helpless, and know it? He came to help you! Believer or Unbeliever—Jesus is the answer!