

CHRIST KNOWS

John 9:35-41

John 9:35-41 *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. 39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. 40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*

Suggested further reading: Psalm 3

We see in these verses how great is the kindness and condescension of Christ. No sooner was this poor blind man cast out of the Jewish church than Jesus finds him and speaks words of comfort. He knew full well how heavy an affliction excommunication was to an Israelite and at once cheered him with kind words. He now revealed himself more fully to this man than he did to anyone except the Samaritan woman. In reply to the question, 'Who is the Son of God?' he says plainly, 'Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.'

We have here one among many beautiful illustrations of the mind of Christ. He sees all that his people go through for his sake and feels for all, from the highest to the lowest. He keeps account of all their losses, crosses and persecutions. 'Are they not all written in his book?' (Ps. 56:8). He knows how to come to their hearts with consolation in their time of need and to speak peace to them when all men seem to hate them.

We see in these verses how dangerous it is to possess knowledge, if we do not make a good use of it. The rulers of the Jews were fully persuaded that they knew all religious truth. They were indignant at the very idea of being ignorant and devoid of spiritual eyesight. 'Are we blind also?' they cried. And then came the mighty sentence: 'If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.'

When knowledge only sticks in a man's head and has no influence over his heart and life, it becomes a most perilous possession. And when, in addition to this, its possessor is self-conceited and self-satisfied and fancies he knows everything, the result is one of the worst states of soul into which man can fall. There is far more hope about him who says, 'I am a poor blind sinner and want God to teach me,' than about him who is ever saying, 'I know it, I know it, I am not ignorant,' and yet cleaves to his sins. The sin of that man 'remaineth'.

For meditation: *God requires dependence and humility, not self-sufficiency and pride.*

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