

One Thing I Know

By R.T. Nusbaum

*"Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: **one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.**" (John 9:24-25)*

The man who said this was already an Israelite. He was not a foreigner but of the people of God. This eye-opening experience was not just receiving salvation or seeing God for the first time. He was well acquainted with the things of God, its rituals and people, and the reality of a living God.

All this has been said to point out that when this man said, "one thing I know; whereas I was blind but now I see", he was not talking about the initial experience of finding God but was speaking of one who believed in a God Who was either in a temple or far away. His eyes were opened by a present and near Jesus in order for him to see a present and near Jesus.

Most people relate to a Jesus who is a far away but the blind man's view was changed. This is truly an eye-opening experience that, as we see from the story, was had by few among the people of God. Relating to the Lord in a close, intimate way by the blind man did not make him exclusive. On the contrary, it was the Pharisees who made themselves exclusive and tried to make him an outcast. They tried to convince the blind man to no longer see but to go back into the blindness of religion. However, it was impossible for him to go back. Why? Because now he finally saw! He saw Jesus. He saw a Life that was among them.

This blind man didn't just decide to believe a new doctrine. He didn't join some new cult where he could find acceptance and love. The truth is, his decision caused him not to be accepted by religion, his parents and all around him. In one sense, there was no benefit outwardly at all to "go this way". But how could he deny what he now saw as reality?

In truth, you can easily change doctrines and methods of ministry but what you have seen as a result of the hand of the Lord cannot be taken away from you. If we think we see it and it is taken away, then we probably never REALLY saw it.

Before his eyes were opened, the blind man probably thought that life was miserable. He probably also thought that if he could just have his eyes opened then everything would be wonderful. You can live in the fairytale dream of what you think things will be like, but he found out differently.

Before his eyes were opened at least his parents stood with him. Afterward, they feared the rulers of the synagogues more than they loved their own son (his eyes were opened to

THIS also). Before, he probably received sympathetic remarks from the rulers of the synagogue, but afterward he was cast out of the synagogue and considered an outcast and evil. But he was no a traitor nor was he an evil person. He was simply a man who once was blind and now he sees. He didn't initiate his own release from blindness. He didn't become independent and just start seeing for himself. No! HE saw Jesus. He was touched by God and his eyes were opened.

Beforehand, this man was blind but he knew many things. Now he could see but he only knew one thing. "*One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.*" This was the case of the Apostle Paul also. Before God opened his eyes after the Damascus Road experience, he was a zealous scholar that knew many things. He was an impressive man on many religious levels. But Paul became a one subject man. After seeing Christ and Him Crucified, he only wanted to know one thing: Christ and Him Crucified.

Even in the story of Martha and Mary we find that Martha was troubled about many things but Mary experienced no such upheavals. She had reduced it all down to one thing. The blind man said "one thing I know" and Jesus said to Martha, "One thing is needful."

Listen to the blind man's own words, "One thing I know; whereas I was blind, now I see." The problem is that many do not know that they are blind. They think they see. Jesus spoke to this problem in this same story in verse 39 through 41 when He said to the Pharisees that "Because you say you see then are ye blind." But the blind man admitted that he had been blind.

What was the means by which his "seeing" came about? Did he humble himself enough to admit that he was blind? No! The thing that convinced him that he was blind was when sight came to his eyes. When you finally see, then there is no need to try to convince that person that he was once blind. He knows it! He became a convinced man.

All the forces around him tried to rob him of the things that had just radically changed his life, but he would not be moved. As the conversations went along in John chapter nine, he became more and more convinced that they too were blind and needed to see the Light. All of their persecutions only pushed him more completely into the camp of the Lord.

You can't talk people into seeing. Either they see or they do not see. For a blind man to act as though he saw is utter foolishness. The proof is in his stumblings. Their eyes must be opened by Jesus so that thy might also see Jesus. ***