

## ***THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO JESUS***

**John 9:35-41**

**The Gospel of John – Week 40**

**By Andy Manning**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. My two sons had been begging me to get them a basketball goal for a long time. The reason they didn't have a goal is because we have already had and broken four basketball goals. Let's just say they don't make 'em like they used to. But my boys didn't give up. They kept asking me. And I felt sorry for them. They would just go outside and dribble, and throw the ball in the air. Or they would set up a plastic bin on the ground and play one on one with that. So, I finally gave in and bought them a goal from Amazon. And I decided to keep it a secret. I wanted it to be a big surprise. In fact, the day before it arrived the boys were asking me again for a goal and I told them no, because it was a huge waste of money. When the goal was delivered, I was at work. I imagined the boys seeing the box and just jumping for joy and excitement. I couldn't wait to get home to see their faces. I imagined that when I got home the boys would meet me at the door with praise and adoration; that they would hoist me up on their shoulders and carry me around the living room; that they would sing songs of celebration and thanksgiving to me. Instead, when I got home, neither of them said a thing. They didn't say thank you. There was no excitement on their faces. Nothing. That was not the response I was looking for.
2. Today I want to talk about the right response to Jesus. When you think about who Jesus is, and all that He has done for us, how should we respond? I'm afraid that all too often our response is wrong. It is flat. It is as if we haven't met Jesus. It is as if Jesus hasn't done anything in us and for us.

### **II. TEXT: John 9:35-41**

1. 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and when he found him, he asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
  - i. This is a continuation of the story of Jesus healing the man who was blind from birth.
  - ii. When the Pharisees interrogated the man about his healing, he claimed that Jesus healed him, and he refused to say anything bad about Jesus, so they excommunicated him.
  - iii. Jesus heard about this, so he looked for the man to reveal more of Himself to him.
  - iv. "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
    1. Jesus' favorite title for Himself was "Son of Man."
    2. It is found 81 times in the Gospel of John.
    3. The prophet Daniel prophesied that God would one day appoint a king who would rule the entire world forever and ever. Daniel called

this king the Son of Man. This was Daniel's title for the promised Messiah.

4. **Daniel 7:13-14** "13 I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. 14 He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed."
  5. The Jews believed the Son of Man described the Messiah. Some believed that He was waiting in heaven until God sent Him to earth to rule over it.
  6. What kind of king could rule the entire world forever and ever? Only God.
  7. By calling Himself the Son of Man, Jesus was both claiming to be the Messiah, and to be God.
  8. Jesus asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
2. 36 "Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?" he asked.
    - i. The man didn't know who the Son of Man was. He knew what the term meant – Messiah. But he did not know who Messiah was.
  3. 37 Jesus answered, "You have seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."
    - i. Here Jesus claimed to be the Son of Man, and the Messiah.
  4. 38 "I believe, Lord!" he said, and he worshiped him.
    - i. When the man found out that Jesus was the divine Son of Man, he worshiped Jesus.
    - ii. Worship. This is the right response to Jesus. The man had the right idea. This is how we should respond to Christ who has created us, saved us, delivered us from sin and Satan, and given us eternal life. Worship.
    - iii. Notice that Jesus did not stop the man from worshiping Him. This is very significant.
      1. The Bible commands us to only worship God. When the devil was tempting Jesus in the desert, he took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. He said, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me." **Matthew 4:10** "Then Jesus told him, 'Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"
      2. God is jealous for our worship. **Deuteronomy 8:19** "If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods to serve them and bow in worship to them, I testify against you today that you will certainly perish."

3. Men of God refused to worship other gods. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon built a giant gold statue and commanded everyone to bow down in worship to it or be thrown in the fire, but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down. They would rather be burned alive than worship another god.
4. Men of God refused to accept worship. There are a few times in Scripture when people tried to worship God's prophets, but they adamantly refused to be worshiped.
  - a. In Acts 10, when Cornelius met Peter, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped him. Peter lifted him up and said, "Stand up. I myself am also a man." Acts 10:26
  - b. In Acts 14, Paul healed a man who had been lame from birth in the town of Lystra. So, the townspeople thought that he and Barnabas were gods, and worshiped them. Acts 14:14 "The apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their robes when they heard this and rushed into the crowd, shouting, 'People! Why are you doing these things? We are people also.'"
  - c. Godly men don't accept worship. They give the glory to God.
5. The Bible warns against men accepting worship. Acts 12 tells the story of King Herod gave a speech to the people of Tyre and Sidon, and the people said, "It's the voice of a god and not of a man!" Herod didn't correct them, so the at once an angel struck him because he did not give the glory to God, and he was eaten by worms and died. Acts 12:20-23
6. But here in Acts 9:38, a man worships Jesus, and Jesus doesn't stop him. Jesus doesn't correct him.
7. And this isn't the only time this happened. This occurred several times. I'll give you one more example. In Matthew 14, the disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, and there was a big storm. Jesus walked on water, and then as soon as He stepped into the boat, the storm died down. So, the disciples worshiped Him. And Jesus didn't stop them.
8. What does this say about Jesus? He taught and believed that He was God and not a mere human being.
9. Some skeptics say that Jesus never claimed to be God. Then why did He allow people to worship Him on numerous occasions?
5. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind."
  - i. "I came into this world for judgment."
    1. Is this a contradiction?

- a. **John 3:17** “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”
    - b. **John 12:47** “I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.”
  - 2. Meaning: Jesus’ mission for coming to the world was not to punish people, but to save people. But those who reject Him will face punishment. Punishment was not His desire, His purpose, His delight, but it is the natural consequence for those who reject His salvation.
  - 3. What is the punishment for rejecting Christ?
- ii. “In order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.”
  - 1. Meaning: Those who admit that they are spiritually blind, that they need a Savior, and believe in Jesus, will be saved. They will receive spiritual sight. Those who believe that they can see just fine without Jesus; they reject the healing that Christ offers; they will lose the ability to believe. God will stop pursuing them.
  - 2. We are born spiritually blind. We cannot understand spiritual truth. We cannot respond to spiritual truth. We don’t love or desire God. The Bible says that Satan is blinding us to the truth of the gospel. 2 Cor 4:3-4
  - 3. Salvation is only possible if God draws us. Prevenient grace. He must open our hearts so that we can respond to the gospel. Jn 6:44
  - 4. If God opens your heart and draws you to Christ, but you continually reject His offer of free grace, then eventually God closes the door of opportunity and He will stop drawing you.
  - 5. That is why the Bible says that today is the day of salvation. If you reject Christ today, you may never have another opportunity.
  - 6. This is why we must pray for God to be merciful to our lost friends, and to keep pursuing them; to keep drawing them.
- 6. 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things and asked him, “We aren’t blind too, are we?”
  - i. Who was Jesus talking about – those who see will become blind? The Pharisees. The Pharisees thought they were righteous without Christ. They did not believe in Christ. They did not need Jesus. They rejected Him.
  - ii. So, the Pharisees who were with the blind man asked, “You’re not talking about us, are you? We aren’t blind?”
- 7. 41 “If you were blind,” Jesus told them, “you wouldn’t have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.
  - i. If you would admit that you were blind, sinners in need of a Savior, and believe in Jesus, then you would not be in trouble with God.

- ii. But because you continue to believe that you don't need Christ, that you are self-righteous, then you are headed for trouble.
- 8. I love the blind man's response to Jesus. He worshiped him. That should be our response too. Jesus did not heal us of physical blindness, but of spiritual blindness. He died for our sins and washed them away. He loves us unconditionally. He promises us eternal life. He provides for us. He hears prayers and cares for us. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. He is creator and Savior. He is the Great I Am. He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- 9. So, let's spend the rest of our time talking about how to worship Jesus.

### III. HOW TO WORSHIP JESUS CHRIST

#### 1. Worship through praise.

- i. **2 Chronicles 7:3** "They worshiped and praised the Lord: For he is good, for his faithful love endures forever."
- ii. Praise and worship go hand in hand.
- iii. To praise the Lord is to verbally express your adoration and thanksgiving. It is to verbally say, "Praise the Lord. Hallelujah! Thank you, Jesus!"
- iv. **Rick Warren** "Worship is expressing our love to God for who He is, what He's said, and what He's doing."
- v. **Thomas Watson** "What were our tongues given for but to be organs of God's praise?"
- vi. But it is not enough to praise the Lord in generalities. It is important to name His benefits and attributes.
  - 1. **Psalm 104:1** "My soul, bless the Lord! Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with majesty and splendor."
  - 2. **1 Chronicles 16:8** "Give thanks to the Lord; call on His name; proclaim His deeds among the peoples."
  - 3. Psalm 103 is a great example of this. It starts out like this. **Psalm 103:1-2** "My soul, bless the Lord, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. My soul, bless the Lord, and do not forget all his benefits." Then the rest of the Psalm is a detailed description of all of God's benefits.
- vii. There are many ways to praise the Lord.
  - 1. With words. Just saying, "God is good! Thank you Jesus. Praise the Lord."
  - 2. Ps 66:1 – Shout joyfully to God.
  - 3. Ps 33:2 – With musical instruments.
  - 4. Ps 34:1 – Continually/At all times.
  - 5. Ps 35:28 – All day long.
  - 6. 1 Chron 29:13 – With thanksgiving.
  - 7. Ps 105:2 – Tell about His wondrous works.

8. Psalm 149:2 – With celebration.
  9. Ps 149:3 – With dancing.
- viii. One of the primary ways to worship God is through song.
1. Singing to God is not new. It goes back to the Old Testament, thousands of years ago.
    - a. **Psalm 30:4** “Sing to the Lord, you his faithful ones, and praise his holy name.”
    - b. Notice that this is a command. We are commanded to worship God through song.
  2. We also see the command to sing to the Lord in the New Testament.
    - a. **Colossians 3:16** “Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”
  3. Our singing should be passionate.
    - a. Ps 9:1-2 – Praise God with your whole heart.
    - b. Ps 108:2 – With the whole of your being.
    - c. Ps 109:30 – Fervently.
    - d. 2 Sam 6:15 – David danced with all his might before the Lord.
    - e. It’s a shame that many Christians display more joy and passion and emotion when they are watching a movie, or at a sporting event, than they do at church when praising the Lord. This should not be!

## 2. Worship in spirit and in truth.

- i. **John 4:23-24** “23 But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.”
- ii. “In spirit” – With sincerity. Without hypocrisy. Don’t worship just so that others will admire you. Don’t worship with passion when you are at church, but then ignore God the rest of the week. Don’t just sing worship songs with your lips while your mind and heart are not in it. Worship God in spirit – with sincerity.
- iii. “In truth” – According to who God really is. We must worship God according to what the Bible says about Him; not according to who we want Him to be.
  1. Don’t praise God because we’re all His children. We’re not all His children; only those who are born again.
  2. Don’t just praise God for His love and mercy; praise Him for His holiness and justice.
  3. Don’t praise God because He accepts you just as you are. He doesn’t. He demands that you repent and obey Him.

4. Don't praise God because He lets everyone go to heaven. He doesn't.
5. Don't praise God because He promises to give you health, wealth, and prosperity in this life; He doesn't. He promises suffering for His name in this life, and prosperity in the next!
6. We must praise God according to who He really is.
7. This is why it is important to study the Bible and develop an accurate definition of God in order to worship in a way that pleases God.
8. Also, this is why it is essential that our worship songs are biblically accurate; orthodox; theologically correct. Every once in a while I will hear a worship song that sounds great, but when I look into what it actually says, I reject it because it is theologically unsound.
9. **Phil Johnson** "If your worship is not grounded in a true knowledge of the true God then your worship is just superstition."

### 3. Worship by living a life that is holy and pleasing to God.

- i. **Romans 12:1** "Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship."
- ii. Worship is not merely about singing and praying; it should be everything you do. It is not an event; it is a lifestyle. It is about all of life lived unto God.
- iii. Romans 12:1 teaches several important lessons about worship:
  1. It is a response. "In view of the mercies of God." In view of God's mercy through the cross of Christ, worship. If you have been a recipient of God's mercy, then you should be a trumpet of God's praise.
  2. It includes your entire body. Not just your mind. Not just your heart. Your entire body. Everything about you should be worshipful. Your tongue – the words you use. Your stomach – the food you eat. Your feet – the places you go. Your mind – the thoughts you think. Your hands – the things you touch, and the way you touch.
  3. It is a living sacrifice. We worship by dying – not physically, but spiritually. We worship by dying to the world, and dying to our own selfish desires, and living completely dedicated and devoted to God.
  4. It is a life of holiness. Worship means living without sin.
  5. It is a life that is pleasing to God. In everything you do, the end game is to please the Lord. To make God happy.
- iv. **Spurgeon** "Zeal that spends itself in singing and leaves no practical residue of holy living is worth little. Many go to church and sing praises to God, and then live for the world and sing to the world the rest of the week."
- v. The day the basketball goal was delivered, my sons did not sing my praises; they did not give me any hip-hip hurray's. But they did show their gratitude with their actions. First, they put it together that day. And then that same

day they played with the new goal for a long time with their friends. And that matters more to me than saying “Thank you.” If my boys said, “Thank you,” but didn’t put the goal together, and never played with the goal, then that would have really disappointed me. But when I see them enjoying the gift, and getting my money’s worth out of it, that makes me happy. In the end their actions are more important than their words.

- vi. That’s the way worship is. All the songs in the world don’t mean a thing if not backed up by a lifestyle of worship.
- vii. **Spurgeon** “The best possible praise is that which proceeds from people who honor God, not only with their lips, but also with their lives.”

#### IV. CONCLUSION

1. There is only one right response to Jesus Christ and all that He has done for us. Worship.
2. Many Christians are full of complaining, and grumbling, and murmuring, and griping. They feel sorry for themselves. Their life is a constant pity party. They are always unhappy. They rarely smile and never laugh. That’s not who we should be. We are loved and redeemed and blessed by almighty God. We have forgiveness for yesterday, strength for today, and hope for tomorrow. We have purpose in this life, and paradise awaiting us in the next. Let us worship the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Will you today commit to living a living a life of worship from this day forward?
4. Will join me today in making a commitment to being a church of passionate worship from now on?
5. Anything less is unworthy of our Lord and Savior.