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Why Jesus Came, Part 1

Text: John 9:35-41

In verse 35, a healed, excommunicated man is reunited with Jesus. Rather than Jesus asking about how things have been going since his healing, the man is grilled about his theology. *Do you believe in the Son God?*  The healed man is open to believing but he needs some clarification (36). Note a profession of faith, followed by worship. Immediately after this exchange Jesus articulates His reason for coming to earth. According to Jesus, in this text, there is a specific reason Christ came.

Christ came to judge people. That statement seems to directly oppose the words of Jesus in John 3:17 and 8:15 and 12:47. We know John 3:16, but 3:17 pushes at the edges of *why* Jesus came.

*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

Let’s place John 3:17 and John 9:39, side by side. Did Jesus come to *save* or to *judge*? The answer is “yes”. Christ came, calling all people to repent of sin and receive Him. Those who do, are saved. Those who do not are judged.
Specifically, Jesus wants to be heard by:

1. Those who do not see- that they may see. This is a call to the spiritually blind, the naive, the needy, the open-to-transformation person. It is the desire of Jesus for us all to be able to say what this healed man said in verse 25: *One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.*

Note the progression of this formerly blind man’s confessions of Christ.

* A Man called Jesus (11)
* He is a prophet (17)
* Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see. (25)
* Lord, I believe. (38)

This was a man who *did not* see. Christ came that this man, and millions like him, might see!!

1. Those who see - that they may be made blind.

This is a call to the arrogant, the proud, those enshrouded in spiritual darkness. These are the people who think they don't need help. Their cry is always, “Oh, I see, I see”. Jesus is saying, “No, you don’t see, you merely *think* you do.” That’s the problem. Jesus came for those who see.

The late Australian NT scholar, Leon Morris (1914-2006) wrote:

*We must understand the concluding words* [ of verse 39] *to mean “that those who claim to have spiritual sight (apart from Me) may be shown up for the blind men that they really are.* (The New International Commentary on the New Testament. The Gospel According to John. p 496)

When Jesus comes and is understood, those who are spiritually blind, see. Those who pride themselves on their sight and insight and spirituality, realize how far from God they really are. Warren Wiersbe:

“The *reason* for our Lord’s coming was salvation, but the *result* of His coming was condemnation of those who would not believe.” (The Bible Exposition Commentary)

Isaiah 6:9-10

***9*** *And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'* ***10*** *"Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."*

Christ came to bring light, sight, salvation. When we hear Christ’s teaching, we see ourselves for what we *are*...and are *not*. When the Pharisees heard what Jesus said to the formerly blind man, they asked the question you and I ought to ask ourselves:

*Are we blind also?*

Let me paraphrase Jesus’ answer. “I wish you *were* blind, for then you would *see*. But you think you *already* see and, therefore, your blindness remains” (41).

The Pharisees *saw* but didn't *see*.

* They saw the formerly blind beggar (13).
* Nicodemus, a Pharisee, saw the signs which Jesus performed (3:1-2).
* Other Pharisees saw many signs (11:47)

Christ came to address the lack of light and vision. Those who did not see, had their eyes opened. Those who prided themselves on seeing were made aware of their spiritual blindness.

**Closing**

Treasure Island, A Child's Garden of Verses, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde - those are just some of the works written by Robert Louis Stevenson. Tradition tells of a night in his boyhood when his nanny just couldn't get him to bed. Young Robert just kept staring out the window, oblivious to her talking to him. Finally, she said, "Robert, what in the world are you looking at out there?" As she pulled back the curtain, she realized he was watching a lamplighter as he set up a ladder, climbed up to the lamp post, lit the lamp and climbed down the ladder. The lamplighter made his way down the street, lighting one street lamp after another. Young Robert Louis Stevenson saw something more. He said, "Look at that man! He's punching holes in the darkness!"

That is exactly what our Lord Christ did when He came. He punched holes in the darkness, that we might have light!!

Amen