

In his book, *The Magician's Nephew*, C. S. Lewis writes of the creation of fictitious Narnia through the song of Aslan (the lion who represents Jesus in the book). The Creation Song is clearly intended to reveal the majesty and glory of Aslan. As in Genesis 1, it is a grand call to worship.

But there was one (Uncle Andrew) who would not hear it. The consequences were staggering:

When the great moment came and the Beasts spoke, he missed the whole point, for a rather interesting reason. When the Lion had first begun singing, long ago when it was still quite dark, he had realized that the noise was a song. And he had disliked the song very much. It made him think and feel things he did not want to think and feel.

Then, when the sun rose and he saw that the singer was a Lion ("only a lion," as he said to himself) he tried his hardest to make himself believe that it wasn't singing and never had been singing; only roaring as any lion might in a zoo in our own world. *Of course it can't really have been singing*, he thought, *I must have imagined it. I've been letting my nerves get out of order. Who ever heard of a lion singing?*

And the longer and more beautifully the Lion sang, the harder Uncle Andrew tried to make himself believe that he could hear nothing but roaring. Now the trouble about trying to make yourself stupider than you really are is that you very often succeed. Uncle Andrew did. He soon did hear nothing but roaring in Aslan's song. Soon he couldn't have heard anything else even if he had wanted to.

And when at last the Lion spoke and said, "Narnia awake," he didn't hear any words: he heard only a snarl. And when the beasts spoke in answer, he heard only barkings, growlings, bayings, and howling.

It is hard to be an unbeliever. It is much harder because of the fact that that which is truth gets louder and more obvious making it more difficult to continue in unbelief. Such was the case for the Pharisees in the aftermath of the healing of the man born blind.

Read the account where the Pharisees had a "hearing" about this miracle business that Jesus had done. The parents of this blind man were called to the stand. They kind of tipped-toed through the hearing. Then the man born blind was called not once, but twice to the stand. As the man told more of his experience with the miracle worker, the meaner and the nastier the Pharisees became. The final straw was the statement the man born blind made in verse 32. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." That really set the Pharisees off so that they put the man out of the Jewish faith altogether. This is the first time we see this happen. It is also the first break that was made that separated the Christian faith from the Jewish faith.

Though this man was given physical sight, he still did not have complete spiritual sight. But wow, was God working on him, and this man was searching. This brings us to the passage for today. Last week, we saw how the man born blind received his sight. Today, we will see how the man born blind received his sight. Last week it was the physical sight. Today it is the spiritual sight. To you who are new to church life, spiritual sight is "churchese" for being a believing Christ follower.

Throughout the whole Bible, blindness is used metaphorically to represent the human condition of corruption and fallen-ness, and the inability to comprehend God and divine truth.

Go with me to John 9:35-39

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

<sup>36</sup> He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."

<sup>38</sup> And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

<sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."

Notice a few things about this man coming to full faith in Christ.

### 1. God initiated

The man was seeking Christ, but his understanding of Jesus was incomplete. He thought Jesus may have been a prophet. He knew that Jesus was of God for no one had ever given sight to a man born blind. Now we find Jesus seeking him out after hearing that he was put out. It's like when Jesus heard he was kicked out of Jewish faith, he may have thought, "It is time. When Jesus found the man, Jesus revealed Himself completely to who Jesus is. He does the same today. Many have an idea of who Jesus is. It is not until someone shares Jesus from scripture that God through the Holy Spirit will completely reveal Himself so that they understand. If God did not take the initiative in salvation, no one would be saved because a spiritually dead sinner cannot seek God alone and of himself.

John 6:44 – No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."

Later Jesus said, "You did not choose Me. I chose you." It's true. It's not that one day I woke up and decided that I was going to believe in Jesus Christ. He pursued me. He chose me. He wanted me. That is grace.

### 2. Faith required

It is not enough to know about Jesus as Son of God, Savior and Lord. We must trust in Him. We must faith in Him.

"Who is He that I may believe in Him?"

What is faith? It is forsaking all, I trust Him.

My youth minister when I was in high school grew up in a pastor's home. He supposedly was saved and baptized as a child. As a teen, however, he started to get convicted of need for salvation. His dad led him through scripture again. "I know all of that." The conviction continued. He went to several pastors for consultation. Never got the peace from those conversations. One pastor said, "Why don't you just pray." Tim did. He came to the place in his prayer that he said, "I place my trust in Jesus alone..." and he realized that he had never faith in Christ. He knew about Him. He prayed acknowledging Him, but never trusted, faithed in Him.

### 3. Jesus Acknowledged

Where there is the miracle of spiritual sight, there will be a confession of Jesus as Lord.

This is a divine miracle. He said, "Lord, I believe." He didn't say, "Could you give me some evidence why I would believe that?" I don't know what he had heard, what he had known. It was sufficient for him that Jesus had made him able to see, he said, "Lord, I believe." Notice the way the man uses the word "Lord." In verse 36, he uses the word. In this verse it is in a question. Lord really probably means something along the line as sir. But now in verse 38, Lord gets an upper-case. It is not a question. It is a declaration of faith. He acknowledges and confesses that Jesus is Lord. Confessing is agreeing to the point of submission to Him as Lord. He's gone from sir, to the Lord of lords. "Lord, I believe."

His believe is certain because of what happens next. He worships Jesus as Lord!

#### 4. Worship Resulted

How do we know when someone becomes a believer? The person becomes a true worshipper. His worship is not superficial and of the flesh. He worships in spirit and in truth. That's the only way to worship. It can only happen as we are believers. Worship is simply the response to the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is something we will want to do. It is something that will be a priority in our lives. You will allow nothing to compete with worship.

Worship can happen anywhere. It happens on Sundays in our corporate worship. It happens Wednesdays and even Thursdays in our Thursday night Bible study. It will happen Tuesday as we worship is serving the homeless at street reach. It happens when you respond to what God has done for you.

It is the response found throughout scripture who became believers. Thomas after doubting the resurrection of Jesus was confronted by Jesus showing the very things Thomas demanded for his faith. How did Thomas react? He bowed and declared, "My Lord, and my God!"

John 1, the passage you were in during Sunday morning Bible Study, Nathaniel was told by Philip we found the Messiah. Nathaniel comment was, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth." Jesus later confronted him. He told Nathaniel, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."

Some of you know about Jesus, but you never put faith in Him. Some you have place faith, but have strayed from Him in your relationship with Him.

Today Acknowledge. Today Faith in Him. Today worship. For He has indeed given us our spiritual sight.