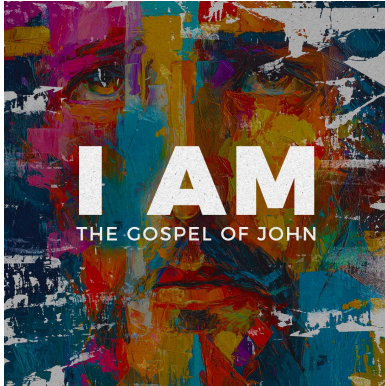


Title: Seeing Isn't Always Believing

Series: I Am

Speaker: Sandy Hughes

Date: October 18, 2026



Key Texts: John 9:1-41

Introduction:

In John 9, we see Jesus' encounter with a man who has been blind since birth, someone others have walked past for years or treated as a theological puzzle or problem to be solved. Jesus truly sees him, heals him, and later goes looking for him after the religious leaders throw him out. Where others look for someone to blame, Jesus sees someone to love. This man, in turn, ends up seeing Jesus more clearly than the religious experts who assumed they understood scripture and the things of God best. Sometimes our greatest blindness is being certain that we already see. Sandy's invitation to us this week is to humbly bring this prayer before Jesus, the One who sees us and helps us see: "Jesus, help me see what you see."

Icebreaker:

Can you think of a time when someone really saw you or noticed you when you felt overlooked? What did they do, and why was that particularly meaningful for you?

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to read **John 9:1-41** aloud as a group. As you do, begin to make some initial observations about the text. What specific words, images, or details capture your attention? Is there anything that you find surprising, confusing, or challenging?
2. What does this passage reveal about God, and what does it reveal about humanity?
3. Which of the characters in this scene do you most relate to - the blind man, the disciples, the parents, the religious leaders? Why?

4. As you read through the passage one more time, make note of how the blind man's understanding of Jesus grows - from "the man they call Jesus" to "a prophet" to someone "from God," to "Lord, I believe." How has your own understanding and faith in Jesus grown over time?
5. Sandy shared Dallas Willard's words that painful seasons can be "a test of your joyful confidence in God." What do you think it looks like to trust God's character when you can't understand your current circumstances or when your prayers seem unanswered?
6. Sandy said that "sometimes our greatest blindness is being certain we already see." How might your assumptions about God or other people be keeping you from seeing what He is doing? Is there a particular area in your life right now that you feel like God is inviting you to approach with the prayer Sandy left us with - "Jesus, help me see what you see"? How can our group be praying for you in that?

Key Takeaways

- Jesus sees what others miss. Where others look for someone to blame or a problem to solve, Jesus sees a person to love. He moves toward suffering, rather than away from it.
- We can't manufacture our own light. Just like when standing in a pitch-black tunnel, we need a source of light outside of ourselves; we need Jesus, the light of the world.
- Sometimes our greatest blindness is being certain we already see. Jesus invites us to stay teachable by approaching God, His Word, and one another with humility.
- We don't need every answer to follow Jesus. Like the man who said, "One thing I do know," we can respond to the light we've been given and take the next faithful step.
- Rejection by others is not rejection by Jesus. The Good Shepherd goes looking for those who have been cast out, and He reveals Himself so we can believe.

Practice: Presence with God

This week, take a look at the "Presence with God" section of your Rule of Life customary card, and choose one simple habit that will help you become more attentive to Jesus. You might begin the morning with five minutes of silence before reaching for your phone, set aside time for Sabbath, or try your own version of Sandy's "porch time" - sitting quietly with scripture, a journal, or just time in the stillness with the Lord. Take some time to just ask, before reading or sitting in silence: "Jesus, what do you want me to see today?" Invite Jesus to give you His eyes to see people and His ears to listen to them. Take notice of who He might be inviting you to slow down for and listen to this week.