

I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE**SCRIPTURE: JOHN 9: 13-25**

FACILITATOR: MARSHA CARTER

I. INTRODUCTION

AHA!!! We got Him now. If He really was sent by God, He would surely know Jewish Law and have better sense than to heal on the Sabbath. In the eyes of the Pharisees Jesus had broken the Sabbath laws and was therefore a sinner. In the eyes of others, including the man himself, Jesus had healed a man born blind and therefore must have come from God.

II. THE LESSON: I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE

The healing of this blind man and former beggar created quite a stir because it had been done on the Sabbath.

THREE ATTITUDES TOWARDS JESUS (JOHN 9:13-17)**A. THE WONDER OF THE NEIGHBORS (vs 13)**

It would not have been right to hide this miracle, so his neighbors brought him before the local religious authorities (after all it was a religious healing). Who better to ask about it than those considered the experts in Jewish law?

B. THE SKEPTICISM OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS (vs 14)

Where the neighbors saw it as a miracle, the Pharisees saw a serious infraction of the Sabbath Laws that prohibited healing or kneading on the holy day. They deemed themselves to be custodians of the faith. They knew the law backwards and forwards. How dare this stranger do such a thing as this? To the Pharisees, Jesus was in violation of the Mosaic Law. Even the making of mud was a violation of the law. Pharisaical Law allowed for healing on the Sabbath to save a life but not for healing of the blind. Mark 3:1-6 Luke 13:10-17

C. THE TESTIMONY OF THE HEALED MAN (VS 15)

The religious leaders now launch a full interrogation on the healed man. They kept inquiring about how he had received his sight. He answers plainly; “All I know is the man put mud on my eyes, told me to wash it off. Now I can see clearly. Now the dark is gone.” The formerly blind man simply stated the facts nothing more nothing less!

D. THE INDIGNATION OF THE PHARISEES (VS 16)

Some of the Pharisees were so focused on the Sabbath infraction that they couldn’t see the miracle. Their response was “This man is not from God for He does not keep the Sabbath. Others however felt that if He were a sinner, He could not perform such a feat.” They are now a house divided so they turn back to the man with more questions.

WHAT YOU TALKING BOUT WILLIS? (VS 17)

A. TELL US MORE (VS 17a)

Okay so tell us more about this man. What is your opinion of Him? We don’t necessarily believe that He is who He says He is but since you do just tell of what you really think.

B. BLIND MAN'S TESTIMONY (VS 17b)

The healed man asserted that Jesus was a prophet the highest office he probably knew about. Uhoooooo!!!

UNBELIEF PERSONIFIED (VS18-19)**A. THE JEWS DID NOT BELIEVE (VS 18)**

They definitely did not accept the formerly blind man's testimony about Christ. They were also skeptical that he was ever even blind. They now want verification so they send for his parents.

B. WE NEED PROOF (VS 19)

Unbelief and doubt are terrible qualities. The Pharisees now question the parents as to the validity of their son's blindness. Rather than accept the fact that a miracle had occurred they tried to argue that the man was never blind. To be experts in the law, they had a poor way of showing it. Surely the scriptures foretold (Dan 7:13-14) of the Messiah's coming.

FEAR VS FAITH (VS 20-23)**A. MY NAME IS WES I AIN'T IN THIS MESS**

The man's parents were fearful of excommunication so when asked they admitted that he was their son. They also confirmed that he was born blind but he is grown now and on his own so whatever happens now is his business alone. They were cautious with their answers. They gave short simple plain bald facts.

STILL NOT SATISFIED (vs 24)

A. RE-INTERROGATION

The religious leaders summon the man again. They are not fair judges seeking truth. They have already reached a verdict. They now just want evidence against Jesus. They are seeking an indictment. They try to make the man feel as if he's blaspheming God by giving Jesus credit for his healing. They were trying to pressure him into withdrawing his testimony and proclaim Jesus a sinner.

III. CONCLUSION: John 9:25

The formerly blind man was not going to be trapped into saying Jesus was a sinner. He was unshakable. He refuses to yield to the pressure. He states his testimony with boldness and simplicity: "**ONE THING I KNOW. I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE!**"

7 SABBATH MIRACLES

1. Jesus Heals Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law (Read: Mark 1:29-31)
2. Jesus heals a man with a withered hand (Read: Mark 3:1-6)
3. Jesus heals a man born blind (Read: John 9:1-16)
4. Jesus heals a crippled woman (Read: Luke 13:10-17)
5. Jesus heals a man with Dropsy (Read: Luke 14:1-6)
6. Jesus drives out an evil spirit (Read: Mark 1:21-28)
7. Jesus heals a lame man by the pool of Bethesda (Read: John 5:1-18)