

## **” The Blind Man Testified against the Spiritually Blind!”**

**John 9:13-41 (vv. 30-41)**

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### **I. Introduction**

This 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of John is a theological illustration of spiritual vs. physical blindness. The beginning of the chapter sets the stage. Jesus describes himself as the light of the world (vs. 5). This theme is revisited at the end of the chapter as Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their spiritual blindness. This is a story of mercy and judgment. When the Son of Man comes, he shows mercy to the humble but judgment to the proud. Jesus rebuked the thinking of the proud Pharisees and their rejection of the mercy of God. We all must come to Jesus as humble sinners and rejoice when He saves us.

This entire chapter paints a picture of how Jesus heals blind souls. We are all spiritually blind from birth. Jesus takes the initiative in healing us from spiritual blindness. The blind man did not initiate his healing, Jesus did. The apostle John wrote, *"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins"* (1 John 4:9-10).

We pick up this week with the second questioning of the validity of the claims of miraculous healing of this now formerly blind beggar.

### **II. The Lesson:” The Blind Man Testified against the Spiritually Blind”**

#### **1. vv.24-29. *The Second Interrogation***

The Pharisees proceed to question the healed man again. They had already decided that Jesus was not the Messiah, but they had to admit that He had done a remarkable miracle. Having failed to prove Jesus a sinner with their first round of questions they now hoped the healed man would give in to their pressure and testify that Jesus was a sinner. They suggested that he would be glorifying God if he agreed with their verdict and admitted his guilt in glorifying Jesus.

### ***“The Real Pressure”***

***We know this man is a sinner*** ... In a court of law this would be considered a “leading statement”. Its design is to influence the answer given by the person being questioned. These Pharisees are saying to this man, we already know Jesus is a sinner and because we are the experts in such matters your answer should agree with our assessment. But the healed man refused to speculate on Jesus’ sinfulness. He left that to the theological heavyweights. However, he refused to back down and deny that Jesus had given him sight, thus declaring the Lord a sinner.

***And He refused to repeat himself!*** They had not listened to him in the sense of believing his testimony the first time. So why bother. With sarcasm and a bit of humor he suggested that perhaps they wanted to hear about Jesus one more time because they too wanted to follow Him as disciples. This response gives the indication that the man felt no intimidation from the Pharisees. He does not appear to fear excommunication from a people who likely consider him and treat him as a burden and a shame. He knew that he stood on solid ground with his testimony and he

These Jewish leaders found no humor in his sarcasm and hurled insults at him. They were serious in their quest to discredit and accuse Jesus by any means necessary. They presented following Jesus as irreconcilable with following Moses. Of course, the Pharisees were not the disciples of Moses that they claimed to be. Ironically, Jesus was. Failure to know where Jesus came from amounted to failing to know where He received His authority. Moses had come from God, but Jesus’ critics claimed not to know whether He came from God or from Satan.

### ***2. vv. 30-33. It just Makes Sense!***

There is no wonder that it seemed remarkable to this man that the Pharisees could not see that Jesus had come from God. His testimony is plain and consistent. Their unbelief, considering the evidence given and seen was incredible to him. Surely having received proof of his identity and assurance that he was in fact born blind was good enough to dispel any doubt of his being healed. But what they really wanted to cast doubt on was the fact that Jesus performed the act. That He was the Christ, sent from God. Their quest to defame, to stop Jesus from growing even more believable and gaining more of a following would not allow them to see what

is clear before them. ***They can't see the forest for the trees!*** The forest is symbolic of the compassion that Jesus shows this man in healing him and the trees are Jesus' disregard for their manmade laws regarding the Sabbath.

The proof that Jesus had come from God was His ability to perform such a powerful and miraculous act as giving sight to this man that was blind even before exiting his mother's womb. This man that goes un-named turns their reasoning back on them. **"How can a sinner perform such signs? (vs.16)"** This is the one thing they got right. ***A fundamental biblical revelation is that God responds positively to the godly, but He does not hear (in the sense of granting the requests of) those in sin (Psalm 34:15,16;145:19; Prov. 15:29; Is. 1:15).*** Yet because God is full of mercy and grace His ear is attentive to the cries of sinners for forgiveness that leads to salvation.

3. **v. 34.** This supposedly unlearned beggar gave a lesson to the religious hierarchy that they seemingly could not fathom. There was no way that they could convince or coerce him to change his testimony. **Jesus healed me! Jesus is a Prophet! How could He be a sinner when God has given Him the ability to give sight to one that never had sight before!**

The Pharisees have no answer to this simple step by step reasoning, so they go on the defensive and attack with insults and excommunicate him. It appears that they too were misinformed regarding the sin of an unborn child. Their response to him; Heathen, who are you to give us a lesson in the Spiritual things! GET OUT!

4. **vv. 35-39.** Jesus has not finished the work of healing this man. He has healed his physical blindness but even more important to Jesus is the need to complete the "Works of the Father", His reason for coming into the world, by healing the man's **"Spiritual Blindness"**. **Note:** He did not seek after Jesus for either of these healings, **Jesus sought after him!** **HALLELUJAH!!** Jesus coming was not specifically to bring about the physical healing of our bodies but the "Spiritual Healing" of our souls (**Matt. 13:13-15**).
5. **vv. 40-41.** The hypocritical Pharisees could not *see* past their own misconceived teachings and actions. They could not see their own wrongdoing and the need for their own repentance (Rom. 2:17-21). They could not see that the Law was

not given to enslave but to set free. The Law was given so that we might see the error of our ways and desire repentance of our sins.

Jesus declares that these schooled Jewish leaders are in fact blind. He speaks of their self-imposed ignorance as they choose to turn a blind eye to the evidences of who He is, the Christ, Messiah manifested in the flesh whose coming was foretold (**John 15:22-24**).

There is a saying, "***There are none so blind as those who will not see.***" That was the condition of the Pharisees. They said they could see, they claim to have superior knowledge and understanding of the scriptures, but ***they refused to see.*** There is no one as blind as those who have determined not to see. Jesus said, "If you were really blind then you can be forgiven, but because you say you see, you're in big trouble." A person will be held responsible for the knowledge that they possess. The Pharisees claimed to have the knowledge, but due to their prejudice towards Jesus and their desire to end His ministry by any means necessary, they did not see the light, nor would they walk in that light.

### III. Application

The eye is the lamp of the body. ***You draw light into your body through your eyes, and light shines out to the world through your eyes.*** So if your eye is well ***and shows you what is true***, then your whole body will be filled with light (Matt. 6:22-23 (Paraphrased)).

***Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes so that I may see the wonderful TRUTHS in your law.***