

JOHN 9:8-34
THE INQUEST!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 9 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

Back in John chapter 8 we saw Jesus declare, “... **‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’**” John 8:12.

Also, in John 9:5 Jesus said, “**As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**”

Then, as we moved into John chapter 9 we encountered a man who was born blind! And Jesus healed this man, he could now see!

But we need to remember that Jesus did not come just to heal physical blindness. Not at all. Even though that was important here, it was not the most important thing.

Even for us today, we look at physical healing as the most important thing in people’s lives. But think about it for a minute. Say someone is healed of cancer, drug or alcohol addiction, heart disease or whatever. We tend to think that is great, and it is, it is a miracle.

But for this man, and for us today, physical healing is not the most important thing in our lives. We need spiritual healing, just as this man did!

And we will see that played out next time in our study, how Jesus came to him, found him and this man was not only healed of his physical blindness, but also of his spiritual blindness!

And the religious leaders, well, they remained spiritually blind because they refused to come to Jesus. Again, we will see that next time.

What we are going to see this morning is hard for me to even believe. Here is a man who was born blind and has been blind all his life. And now Jesus heals him, on the Sabbath, but he can see again.

When we hear something like that, I think all we can say is – ***PRAISE THE LORD!***

That would be a normal response, right? I mean this was not some kind of luck or chance happening.

This has to be a work of God. No one could heal a man who was born blind. And yet that is exactly what Jesus did.

The problem we will see this morning is that when people saw this man who was born blind, when the religious leaders saw this man and spoke to him and his parents, they could not accept the fact that Jesus healed him. They were even confused if this is the man who was born blind or just someone else who claimed to be blind and is now healed!

Doubt, unbelief will cause us to move away from what we see God doing or just ignore it because it just could not happen, or it does not fit what we want to believe.

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

Carl Rogers, the U.S. psychologist, was 22 years old when he entered Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1924.

While there, he participated in a seminar organized to explore religious doubts.

Rogers later said of the group, “The majority of members . . . in thinking their way through questions they had raised, thought themselves right out of religious work. I was one.”

- Book of Lists, p. 20

How sad that he was talked out about serving the Lord and the real issue is, did he even know the Lord!

I have called our study this morning – ***THE INQUEST!***

And as we go through our study you will clearly see why I have called it that.

I have broken our study down into several points and they are as follows,

NEIGHBORS CONFUSION – JOHN 9:8-12

THE INQUEST – JOHN 9:13-16

HIS PARENTS CHALLENGED – JOHN 9:17-23

THE TESTIMONY OF A MAN BORN BLIND – JOHN 9:24-27

RELIGIOUS ANGER – JOHN 9:28-29

THE CHALLENGE – JOHN 9:30-34

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 9, beginning in verse 8 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word and we look at this topic –

THE INQUEST!

JOHN 9

VERSES 8-12

Remember what I have called these verses – ***NEIGHBORS CONFUSION!***

This is almost comical when you think about it.

Those that knew this man, lived by this man, couldn't believe it. He was blind and yet, now he can see! It was so amazing that some were unwilling to believe it was the same man!

They knew that he was begging for food or for money because of his blindness and now he can see! What in the world happened? Is this the man?

We read these stories and we don't think much about it. We just say, ***“Wow, this man who was blind and now he is seeing! That is amazing!”***

But what if you were family or friends of this man and you knew him and you knew he was blind and now he is seeing, what would you think?

I think you would be confused just like these people were!

Now how does this apply to us?

We were once spiritually blind but now, because of Christ, we can see!

And think about when you first got saved and how your family, how your friends responded!

They could not believe the change in our lives. My mom thought it was just a fad I was going through like those bell bottom pants and 3-inch platform brown and orange suede shoes I wore! Thank God that was just a fad! Jesus was not just a fad, He is my Savior!

For others, no more going to bars or doing drugs and family and friends wondered, ***“What happened to him? Isn't he the one who went to bars and used drugs?”***

Or ***“Hey, I have know this guy for years and what has happened to him? He is so different! Is this really him?”***

God does amazing things in our lives, and we should let others know what God has done! It is a testimony of our faith, and it brings glory to God!

Shouldn't there be such a difference in our lives that they have a hard time recognizing us?

You bet there should be!

Think about our lives and where we came from.

After we were saved the changes in our life. And as our family, our friends, those who know us look at our lives, they too can't believe we are the same person.

And I guess, in a sense, we are not.

We are a new creation in Christ and those old ways have passed off the scene and we live in this new life we have in Christ. Our lives should be a witness to what God has done!

Let me share some Scriptures with you about what God is doing in our lives and how we should respond or how we should be seen as God is working in us. You see, what God is doing on the inside of us should be manifested outwardly, in the things that we do and the things that we say.

Listen to what we are told in Galatians 2:20, **“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”**

If this is true, and it is, then why do we see the flesh manifested in our lives so much? In other words, why do people see me and not Christ?

Because we are not crucifying the flesh but surrendering to the flesh. Christ lives in us and may He be seen in us!

In Romans 12:2 we are told, **“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

If you want to be conformed to the world, don't do anything and the world will mold and shape you into their image!

It is like a salmon swimming upstream. It is hard, many hurdles but the only way to move upstream is to keep moving forward.

But if you just stop moving you will float downstream like any dead fish!

God wants us to be transformed not conformed to this world. And the only way to be transformed is by renewing your mind and that is done by being in the Word of God!

Look at what God has done and is doing in our lives. In Ezekiel 36:26-27 we are told, **“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”**

That cold hard heart has been replaced with a new heart that is of flesh and is sensitive to not only the things of God but to others.

Not only that but God has given us His Spirit to help us to walk accordingly, down the path that God has set for us!

In Colossians 1:13-14 Paul tells us, **“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”**

If God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and He has, then may we walk in the light as He is in the light!

In I Corinthians 6:11 Paul wrote about our changed lives, **“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”**

That was our past life and thus, as we are new in Christ we need to walk accordingly!
And I realize we are not perfect and that we struggle in this life, but understand that God is working, He is sanctifying us!

Paul, in II Corinthians 3:18 wrote, **“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”**

It is a process, but God is working in us so that He can work through us!

Now if we are struggling in our walk, what should we do?

Paul said in Ephesians 4:22-24, **“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”**

Put it off and be renewed in the Lord, let the Spirit of God guide you. If you are struggling here maybe it is because you are not in fellowship with other believers. Maybe it is because you are not reading your Bible. Maybe it is because you are not praying, talking to God! And maybe it is all three and it usually is! Be wise, put off that old man and put on the new man, the spiritual man.

Remember, whatever you are feeding, the flesh or the Spirit, that is what will be manifested in your life!

And one more. Paul in Colossians 1:10 wrote what we are to be doing. He said, **“that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”**

May we walk in such a way that it pleases the Lord. Again, we will fail, we will fall short, and the Lord is there to pick us up. But may we put off that old man and put on the new man in Christ and have a walk that is worthy of the high calling we have in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Now back here in John chapter 9, these neighbors, friends of this man who was blind, they are so baffled by all of this, and as this once blind man heard all their doubt, he said, “**I am he.**”

His is just letting them know that he was the one who was born blind, the one they saw begging every day for food or money and now he sees!

Remember that the disciples wanted to know who sinned, this man in the womb or his parents that caused him to be born blind.

Now, with those who knew this man who was blind but can now see, they wanted to know how this happened!

That is not the issue really.

The bigger question is this, “*Who performed this miracle? Who opened your eyes?*”

And this man says, “**A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.**” John 9:10.

What I want you to see here is that all this man knows is that some guy named Jesus healed him, that is all, just a “**a man.**”

But as we will see as we read on next time, this once blind man will get a fuller understanding of who this Man really is, the Messiah, the Son of God! In fact, as he hears of Jesus, who He is, this man who was born physically blind and now sees, this man who was born spiritually blind will also see!

But at this point, the man knew very little about Jesus. He didn't seem to know that Jesus was from Nazareth, or was the Messiah, or claimed to be God, or the light of the world. He didn't even know where Jesus was. The man seemed to know nothing about Jesus except His name and that Jesus was the Man who healed him.

Keep in mind that the only encounter that this man had with Jesus was when he was blind.

By the time he came back from the pool of Siloam seeing, Jesus was already gone! So he never saw him face to face, not yet.

I also find it interesting that Jesus healed this man and now this man has seemed to have lost Jesus.

Unlike this man, there are many today who run to Jesus when they are in trouble or going through difficult times, and once they are delivered, God is the farthest thing from their minds, and they don't want to be bothered by Him anymore and that is very sad.

For this man, he just can't find Jesus, but we are going to see that Jesus will find this man! And like I have said, we will look at that next time.

Notice what the people do with this man who was blind and now can see!

I have called these verses – ***THE INQUEST!***

VERSES 13-16

Please understand that the Jewish religious leaders did not like Jesus, they wanted Him arrested and ultimately put to death.

Since all who knew this man could not agree if he was the one born blind and now sees or not, they brought this man who was born blind and now sees to stand before the Pharisees.

And their question is simple, they too wanted to know how this happened to him.

And he tells them, “**He put clay on my eyes, and I washed and I see.**”

You would think there would be more to say, a bigger build up but when you think about it, there was not much more you can add to that.

He answered their question and yet, for most of them, they already came to the conclusion that this Man, Jesus, who healed this blind man was a sinner because He broke the Sabbath Law!

You see, Jesus not only healed this man on the Sabbath, which was not kosher in their minds, but He also spat on the ground and made clay, which also was not kosher, it was work and forbidden on the Sabbath!

Jesus could have done it on any other day. This man was blind, begging at the Temple and thus, he was probably there every day. Why the Sabbath?

I think Jesus was challenging their religious traditions, not the Word of God. You see, as the Bible tells us and Jesus said, “**Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**” Matthew 5:17.

And my point is simple. Jesus *NEVER* violated the Sabbath Law, what He violated was their interpretation of the Sabbath Law! That is one of the reasons they hated Jesus so much, even though what Jesus did was heal people’s lives!

Think about the Sabbath Law for a minute. God said that they were to work six days and rest on the seventh day, the Sabbath or Saturday or from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.

You see, they worked in their fields for six days, and it was hard, and to take a day off from your work was difficult, but that is what God desired for them. To give them a day of rest, a day with their families and a day with God! Pretty simple!

If you look at the Ten Commandments, the Law of God, and specifically the Sabbath day in Exodus 20:11, there are only 35 words in the New King James Bible!

But what does it all mean?

That is what they began to discuss, and they tried to interpret what God meant and from some 35 words we come to 24 chapters in the Talmud that is devoted to what the Sabbath rest is all about!

Think about that, from 35 words of rest to 24 chapters of heavy burdens! That is what man does as he adds to the Word of God!

Let me just share with you some of the craziness of what they taught.

- *A person couldn't carry any object on the Sabbath that weighed more than a dried fig so, if you wore false teeth, you would have to take them out on the Sabbath or else you would be in violation of Sabbath law.*
- *If a person wore a wooden leg, it would have to be removed lest he or she be in violation of carrying a burden on the Sabbath.*
- *Nothing could be bought or sold, and clothing could not be dyed or washed.*
- *No fire could be lit or extinguished including fire for a lamp - although a fire already lit could be used within certain limits.*

How do orthodox Jews get around that today?

They will use automatic timers to turn on lights in their homes when the sun goes down and the Sabbath day begins! If you forget to set the timer, you will stay in the dark because you can't turn a light on during the Sabbath!

Here are a few more of the laws they added to those 24 chapters of rules and regulations.

- *You couldn't look into a mirror on the Sabbath because you might see a gray hair and be tempted to pull it out, which would constitute work and therefore violate the Sabbath.*
- *You couldn't take a bath on the Sabbath because perhaps while you were in the bathtub, water would spill out, and thus the floor would be washed - a clear violation of the Sabbath.*
- *If a person became ill on the Sabbath, only enough treatment could be given to keep him alive - treatment to make him improve or to heal altogether was declared to be work, and therefore forbidden.*

And this went on, page after page, chapter after chapter, for 24 chapters! And what these rabbis did was take what was to be a day of rest and made it into a day of heavy burdens as they tried to keep this law, a law not from God!

That is why I believe Jesus said these words to the Jewish people in Matthew 11:28-30, **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”**

Jesus is speaking to those who wanted to worship God but they were so burdened with all the rules and regulations. And Jesus tells them to come to Him, for in Him there is rest!

Why is that?

Because the work has been done by Jesus and there is nothing we can do to add to our salvation!

Does that mean when I get saved I don't have to do anything?

In a sense that is true. You don't have to, but you get to serve the Lord and we don't get tired of the work that God calls us to do but we can get tired. It is an honor to serve the Lord, not out of obligation but out of love!

You see, I believe that Jesus, and His father were yoke makers. Yokes were made of wood, and buildings or homes were made of stone. So Jesus is telling them that He has a yoke for each of us that will not rub us the wrong way, it won't be a burden, but His yoke is easy and His burden is light! Praise God for that!

People ask me what do they need to do to become a member of this church?

I tell them, "***Come to church!***"

There are no hoops you have to jump through, you come, and you are a member!

But how often we make church a burden, it should be a joy to come to church to worship God, to hear from God and to fellowship with believers!

I am not saying that in these physical bodies we don't get tired as we serve, we do. But we don't get tired of the work we are doing, because, like I have said, it is an honor to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords!

So, Jesus, during His earthly ministry, never violated or broke the Sabbath Law, only their faulty man-made interpretations of what constituted Sabbath Law.

So what we see here is that to some or really most of the Pharisees, Jesus could not be from God because He did not line up with their traditions and prejudices because He broke the Sabbath day Law, or so they thought.

But there was another group, probably a very small group because we don't hear of them again, who said that "**How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?**"

This could be Nicodemus and Joseph who were part of this group and because of the intense opposition to Jesus, they tried to cover the fact that they believed He was the Messiah! They tried to get the other Pharisees to think about what they were saying, but they were afraid to come out and say that they believe in Jesus because they would have been removed from their position as a Pharisee!

So we see this division amongst the Pharisees regarding Jesus, that He was a sinner and He was not a sinner!

But they are not going to stop their inquiry about this, and I think those who supported Jesus, those Pharisees, grew silent at this point.

And as we read on, we will see – ***HIS PARENTS CHALLENGED!***

VERSES 17-23

As we open up here, we see that the Pharisees once again ask this man about Jesus but this time this man speaks of Jesus being more than just a man, He is a Prophet.

You see, his faith is growing! He did not recognize that Jesus is God, not yet but he also understood that the One who gave him sight must be from God!

This man who was born blind and now sees knows His name, Jesus and that there is something special about Him, but he is not saved yet. Again, we will see that as we close this chapter next time.

Now regarding a prophet, listen to what Clarke has to say and this is interesting. He wrote, “Now, according to a Jewish maxim, *a prophet might dispense with the observation of the Sabbath*. See *Grotius*. If they allow that Jesus was a *prophet*, then, even in their sense, he might break the law of the Sabbath, and be guiltless.”

So a prophet could break the Sabbath day law and not be found guilty!

In saying all that, how were these Jewish religious leaders going to respond to what this man said of Jesus, “**He is a prophet**”?

Listen again to what we are told and what they will do. In John 9:18-19 we are told, “**But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’**”

They refused to believe this man, so they call in his parents and they ask them if this was their son and if he really was he born blind!

Think about this. Here is this man who was born blind and can now see. Many knew of him as he sat and begged for money and food. I am sure these Jewish religious leaders passed him by many times.

But for these religious leaders, it was easier for them to believe that the man was never really blind than to believe that Jesus healed the man.

And it as one writer put it, “*Unable to explain this unprecedented phenomenon of a man born blind being enabled to see, they will not admit that it has really happened.*” (Tasker)

That is so sad. You see, they had all this evidence before them and they still refused to see, they still refused to believe because their traditions were more important than God’s Word!

But I will tell you this; it is hard to argue with the evidence that is before them, although they are going to try.

Like I have said, many people knew this man was born blind but that was not good enough, so they brought the parents in to give them the third degree regarding this situation.

Let me ask you this. What is one of the greatest evidence’s for Christianity today?

We can come up with all kinds of ideas like creation, prophecy and so on. But I think there is one that seals the deal and is so important. Do you know what that is?

The greatest evidence for Christianity, for Jesus and what He has done is you and me, those who have come to Christ, born blind but now see, lives transformed by the power of God!

Notice what the parents of this man said to these religious leaders, “**... ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.’**”

John 9:20-21.

In other words, let his life be a testimony, a witness.

It is as Paul said in II Corinthians 3:2-3, “**You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.**”

You see, God’s Word continues on today through us as His living epistles, His living love letters to the world! Thus, when people read you what are they reading? They should see Christ in you, the hope of glory!

Now his parents were careful in what they said to these religious leaders.

Yes, their son was born blind and now he can see, but they stopped there because they were afraid to speak of Jesus healing their son, making Him to be the Messiah because they could be excommunicated from the synagogue, lose their jobs, be outcasts of society.

That is what verse 22 says here in John chapter 9, “**His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.**”

So they are trying to put a stop to people believing that Jesus is the Messiah and what they would do would be devastating to their lives. We saw that after the death and resurrection of Jesus, after Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, that those who came to the faith lost everything and thus, later on Paul took up a collection for the saints in Jerusalem.

Why was this so bad?

Why was it so devastating to people to be excommunicated from the synagogue?

Because you had nowhere else to go! And there is so much more that they did to you!

Let me show you what this all meant.

- *You were cut off from any social interaction with the people of that community - they considered you a spiritual leper to be avoided by one and all.*
- *Your family disowned you and considered you as dead.*
- *Your boss fired you - and no one else would dare hire you.*
- *You were forbidden from taking part in the religious services of the synagogue or in the ritual worship of the temple.*
- *Anyone in the community caught helping a person that had been put out of the synagogue would be excommunicate themselves.*

And so, you can understand why this man's parents were a little terrified about getting the Pharisees upset with them.

Dods wrote of the practice in the ancient Jewish world, *"Of excommunication there were three degrees: the first lasted for thirty days; then followed 'a second admonition,' and if impenitent the culprit was punished for thirty days more; and if still impenitent he was laid under the Cherem or ban, which was of indefinite duration, and which entirely cut him off from intercourse with others. He was treated as if he were a leper."*

Today, this is not a big issue in the church because, as one writer put it, *“In the modern western world the idea of excommunication means little, because it is easy for the excommunicated one to simply go to another church and pretend that nothing happened. More common today is what one might call self-excommunication, where believers separate themselves from church worship and life with no good reason.”* (David Guzik)

So, because of this fear that they had with these Jewish religious leaders, the parents shifted the testimony back to their son.

And that is what we will look at next – ***THE TESTIMONY OF A MAN BORN BLIND!***

Listen to what we are told.

VERSES 24-27

So as this man is brought before them again, they say to him, **“Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.”**

There are two ways to look at this and they both do apply.

First of all, this is saying that they want this man to tell the truth.

That is what Alford says, *“The words are a form of adjuration (see Joshua 7:19), to tell the truth, q. d. ‘Remember that you are in God’s presence, and speak as unto Him.’”*

(Alford)

And Morris tells us, *“The man is being told that he has not been completely frank up till now. He has held back something which would show Jesus to be a sinner.”*

The other way to look at this, and like I have said, I believe both apply, is that they want this man to give God the glory for what was done to him and not this man named Jesus!

In fact, they don’t even use His name, Jesus, but call Him **“this Man.”**

There is something about that name – ***JESUS!***

And again, they considered Jesus to be a sinner, He broke the Sabbath day Law in their mind and thus, the things He did were not of God!

You see, they had their preconceived ideas about the Messiah and Jesus did not fit into what they wanted to believe. The problem with what they were believing is that it was wrong, and Jesus is the Messiah!

The evidence was before them. His parents said that this was their son, and he was born blind. And he stood before them healed!

Bruce wrote of this, ***“It was frustrating for his interrogators that neither of those statements could be refuted: the former statement was confirmed by the evidence of the parents; the truth of the latter they could see for themselves. Why not admit the conclusion to which these two facts pointed?”***

Because they refused to see and thus, they remained in spiritual darkness!

It interesting because this does happen to us as Christians from time to time. They will think we are dumb because we believe in creation and that is not science, that is faith. Or that we disagree on the many social issues that are out there today because we stand firm on the Bible and not feelings or people’s opinions!

And people want to debate us and entangle us, and we may not be an expert in some of these issues, even though we should study to show ourselves approved and be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks regarding the hope that is in us.

One thing that they can’t deny. We can tell them – ***“I DON’T KNOW ABOUT ALL OF THIS, BUT THIS I DO KNOW. I ONCE WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE!”***

In other words, our lives have been changed since we have come to Christ and like I have said, that is the best evidence for our faith!

That is the point that Ray Stedman makes as he wrote,

That is one of the greatest models of how to bear a witness as a believer. Many people are afraid to say anything about the Lord because they think they will be dragged into a theological argument that will be over their heads.

But witness is simply doing what this man did - saying what Jesus did for you, that is all.

“Once I was blind, now I can see” - that is what a witness is.

You are the world’s greatest authority on what happened to you.

As someone has well said, “A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with only an argument.”

When you stand on your experience no one can deny what the Lord has done in your life. You are a positive, powerful witness for Christ. This man teaches us great things in that regard.

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Listen to how this man responds to what they have said. That Jesus is a sinner!

Remember what we read, “. . . ‘Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.’” John 9:25.

Like we have been talking about, this man does not know much about Jesus but what he knows he freely speaks even though he could be excommunicated from the synagogue. This man was not going to lie just to satisfy the Pharisees, so he tells them all he knows, that he was born blind, and Jesus touched his life and now he sees!

How do you argue against that? You can't! Thus, we too should speak of what God has done in our lives and let the evidence speak for itself!

Now, in a sense, the Jewish religious leaders were right. God does not hear sinners. That is what they said about Jesus in John 9:24, that Jesus, or really "**this man**" is a sinner!

In fact, our sin has separated us from God.

Let me explain.

In Psalm 66:18 David said, "**If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.**"

In regard to the hypocrite, Job 27:8-9 says, "**For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much, If God takes away his life? Will God hear his cry When trouble comes upon him?**"

And, of course, in Isaiah 59:1-2 we are told, "**Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.**"

Now keep in mind that God hears everything He just does not respond or have to respond to sinners. Thus, what the Scriptures are saying is that sin has broken that relationship with God. And for Christians, we can quench the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives by allowing sin to dominate our lives!

For these Jewish religious people, they believed this with all their heart, and they were right. God does not hear sinners.

They also believed that God heard the prayer of the righteous and they saw themselves as righteous.

Therefore, Jesus is not righteous, and God will not hear His prayer, that is what they believed.

And these guys don't give up. They come after this man once again wanting to know how this happened.

And I think he had enough, and he tells them, **“I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again?”**

And he continues on, and I believe he is being sarcastic here because he knew where they stood in regard to Jesus and the work he was doing, and he asks these religious leaders, **“Do you also want to become His disciples?”**

I think there was a little smile on his face when he said that.

But the reality of all of this is staring them right in the face. You see, the evidence is before them, the truth is out there, and yes, they should have received Jesus, but they rejected Him even though He did the impossible, made a man born blind to see! Thus, He must be God!

And notice their response to this man's question, **“Do you also want to become His disciples?”**

As you will see, I have called these verses – ***RELIGIOUS ANGER!***

Look at what we are told.

VERSES 28-29

Make no mistake about it, as hard as they were trying, these religious leaders are losing this battle.

And notice what they do. They turn up the heat by saying ***“We follow Moses whom God spoke to, but this Jesus, who knows where He is from, surely he is not from God!”***

And these guys are mad. In fact, the Greek word for “*reviled*” means “*to reproach or scold in a loud and abusive manner.*”

Hopefully that sheds some light to where this conversation was going, and it was not a good place!

And this is interesting to me. They said regarding Jesus, “**as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.**”

Really, these are the religious leaders. Don’t you think they should have known about the Messiah and see that Jesus fulfilled what the Old Testament prophets spoke regarding the Messiah?

Of course they should have known, but they were blind to the truth, they closed their eyes to the truth!

What truth am I speaking of?

In Isaiah alone we see the things that the Messiah would do that fulfilled what was done to this man who was blind and now sees.

In Isaiah 29:18 we are told, “**In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.**”

In Isaiah 35:5 we are told, “**Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.**”

And in Isaiah 42:7 we are told, “**To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.**”

There was no excuse for them not to believe but they closed their eyes because they chose not to believe!

People do that all the time today. They hold onto their traditions, what they want to believe and negate the truths of God found in the Word of God and will spend an eternity in Hell because of it!

Let me show you what I mean from this quote from a Nobel Prize winner, a famous scientist and you tell me if he was suppressing the truth to believe a lie.

His name is George Wald and this is what he wrote,

When it comes to the origin of life there are only two possibilities: creation or spontaneous generation.

There is no third way.

Spontaneous generation was disproved one hundred years ago, but that leads us to only one other conclusion, that of supernatural creation.

We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds; therefore, we choose to believe the impossible: that life arose spontaneously by chance!

- bit.ly/3KSkQfp

It is not that he can't believe in creation, but he refuses to believe it and thus, ***“we choose to believe the impossible: that life arose spontaneously by chance!”*** That is not science, that is faith. And the truth that is before him he refused to see!

I guess we are not much different than these Jewish religious leaders.

As we read on, we will see the response of this man – ***THE CHALLENGE!***

VERSES 30-34

Look at how this man responds to these religious leaders. He is pretty bold with his faith or what he knows, and he tells them, **“Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet, He has opened my eyes.”**

In other words, he is basically telling them, *“This is unbelievable. How can you be so ignorant when there is all this evidence that Jesus is the Messiah? He opened my blind eyes and yet, your ignorance is more of a miracle than my cure! How can you not believe? How can you be the religious leaders of Israel and not understand what this Man has done and who He must be!”*

That had to hurt! This man is blasting these religious leaders for their ignorance. They claimed that Jesus was a sinner and yet He opened the eyes of this man born blind, how can that be when God does not hear sinners?

Remember, we discussed this and saw what the Scriptures had to say regarding this issue.

Remember what we read in Isaiah 59:1-2, **“Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”**

And in Isaiah 1:15 we are told, **“When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.”**

But, on the other side, for those who have come to Him and given their life to Jesus, we are told in Psalm 145:19, **“He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.”**

And in Proverbs 15:29 we are told, **“The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.”**

So how in the world could the religious leaders argue against that point?

They couldn't!

They accused Jesus of being a sinner and yet He healed a man who was born blind! If they only listened instead of closing their ears to the truth because of their own prejudices and preconceived ideas!

And here's the thing. Throughout the Old Testament not one person who was born blind was made to see!

That is what this man is reminding them.

And, according to Psalm 146:8 it is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind. We read **“The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous.”**

You see, Yahweh alone can open the eyes of the blind.

Also, the opening of the eyes of those who are blind is a specific work of the Messiah as we have already seen.

Thus, the conclusion that this lay person, not a theologian, has come to is that Jesus must be from God because no man can open the eyes of someone born blind!

Also, note, that even though he said these things, his faith was still young, and he sees Jesus as not just a man, but a man of God, as his faith continues to grow and it will reach that point where he will see Jesus as the Scriptures say, Almighty God the Messiah!

Now, notice what they did, how they responded to what this man has said. They told him, **“You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?”**

Again, that is what they believed. If you had a physical problem, it was because of some sin in your life. And yet, what does the Scriptures teach us? All they would have had to do is look at the book of Job, who was a righteous man, an upright man before God and yet, not only physical issues came upon him but emotional ones he faced as well. You see, they closed their eyes to the truth, they refused to see, and thus, they remained blind!

So, these religious leaders lost the battle, they could not refute what this man said, and so they excommunicated him from the synagogue! It says, “**And they cast him out.**” John 9:34.

As Morgan tells us, “*The casting out of this man meant his excommunication from his religious rights in Temple and synagogue.*”

Now we read that, and we may feel sorry for this man. He is going to lose everything, and he did not have much to begin with being born blind.

But seeing again, he could have started all over, got a job and so on. But, since they excommunicated him from the synagogue, it was all over for him!

Well, not really. You see, it was exactly what he needed. He couldn't live in both worlds.

It is like a person who gets saved and is going to a church that is dead, there is no life, no truth being spoken, and they can't live in both places at the same time. They can't live in the Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness, so they must move on!

In the world's eyes, he did lose everything! But, as we will see next time, this blind man who now sees, will enter the Kingdom of God as he comes to saving faith. Yes, physically he could see but, as we will see next time, spiritually his eyes will be open as he comes to Jesus!

May we not fight against the truths of God but be open to what God is showing us so that you can either come to the faith or grow in the faith!

May we be able to say – ***I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE!***