

Once Blind but No Longer

John 9:13-25

13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

18 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. 19 And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 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." 22 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. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

25 He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." NKJV

I. The Examination of the Blind Man

A. By the Pharisees

1. Some concerned group brings the man to them to be examined.
2. They want to know how Jesus healed the man.
 - a. But it all sounds too simple.
 - b. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.
 - c. So they continue to question him, almost as if they do not believe him.

B. The problem is that this sign was done on the Sabbath.

1. The Pharisees fashioned themselves as the Sabbath Police.
 2. Their concern seems to be out of proportion.
 3. They had gone far beyond what the law expected in keeping the Sabbath.
 4. Jesus pointed out at other times that they would loose their animals and lead them to water on the Sabbath but to make a man whole on the Sabbath is forbidden.
- C. Jesus taught that the Sabbath was created for the sake of man and not the other way around.
- D. But I might interject that we seem to have gone off the other end.
1. Today we schedule almost everything on Sunday as if there was nothing else to do but to play and enjoy ourselves, without any regard for God on His day.
 2. John said that Sunday was the Lord's day.
 3. Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, NKJV

II. The Examination of the Parents

- A. The Pharisees want this to not be a miracle in the worst way so they call for the parents.
- B. Is this you son? Yes.
1. In callous questioning of the parents the joy of the event is totally lost.
 2. Here is a man, born blind, grew up blind, begging for his livelihood, who can now see, and it is, "So what."
- C. Was he born blind? Yes.
- D. How does he now see? We do not know.
1. John tells us that they were very careful to answer for they could be excommunicated from the synagogue.
 2. This was a very shameful thing, which ouster sized you from society.
 3. So they do not know, he is of age, ask him.
- E. It would have been quite different if it had been a quest for truth.
1. They were not interested in the truth but how to discredit Jesus and win the day.
 2. The Pharisees had become more political than religious, and much the same as our politicians in DC they were not concerned about truth.

3. I received an email this week about the partial inscription of the speech given by Roosevelt after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. They seemed to have left off the words, "So help us God."
 4. Little by little the liberals in this nation have chipped away at the Christian foundation of this nation until it is almost not recognizable any longer.
 5. Recently at the U of I a professor was fired to teaching the truth. He was supposed to teach what Catholics believe. So he taught that the Catholic faith teaches that homosexuality is a sin. He was fired. Now that the professor has filed suit they are back tracking, but it does not change the facts, as though we were concerned with facts, or truth any longer.
- F. These Pharisees were hypocrites only pretending to stand for the right.

III. The Conclusion of the Pharisees

- A. "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."
1. Their conclusion is wrong because their condition is false.
 2. Jesus kept the law in every respect.
 - a. John 8:55 (NKJV) Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.
 - b. 1Pe 2:22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"
 - c. Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
 3. But he was also Lord of the Sabbath.
 - a. Luke 6:5 And He said to them, "The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." NKJV
- B. We know that this Man is a sinner.
1. This was more of a slander than an evaluation.
 2. We must also see from this that they obviously did not consider themselves sinners.
 3. The biggest hypocrites are the ones who cannot see their own faults.
 4. I have been re-reading a great history book, *The Story of Liberty* by Charles C. Coffin first published in 1879 about how the so called religious leaders put thousands of true Christians to death.

- C. Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?"
 - 1. These folks were right but would not take a firm stand against the others.
 - 2. Like Pilate, condemned Jesus to death even though he knew that Jesus was innocent.

IV. The Conclusion of the Blind Man.

- A. "He is a prophet."
 - 1. The blind man knew nothing of Jesus except that he had made him to see.
 - 2. He contends later that he could not be a sinner, for a sinner could not do what Jesus had done.
 - a. John 9:33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." NKJV
 - b. Jesus later meets the man and reveals to him that He is the Son of Man, code for the Son of God.
- B. "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."
 - 1. Nothing that they could say could change the view the once blind man has of Jesus.
 - 2. He may not be a doctor of religion as were these Pharisees but he knew what Jesus had done for him.
 - 3. He may not have had the best life, with all the blessings that the Pharisees enjoyed, but he knew that Jesus had given him his sight.
 - 4. There may be many things in life that he is uncertain about, but this one thing he knows, once he was blind but Jesus has given him sight.

V. What conclusions have you come to.

- A. Jesus was just another man.
- B. Jesus was a great man.
- C. Jesus was a great religious leader.
- D. Jesus was a great teacher.
- E. The conclusion I have come to is the same as the blind man.
 - 1. Once I was blind, not physically but spiritually.
 - 2. Once I was in the depth of darkness, in the kingdom of darkness.
 - 3. Once I was as helpless as this blind man to change my situation.

4. And then along came Jesus.
5. He opened my eyes and caused me to see the real scheme of things.
6. He gave me understanding to know Him.
7. He showed me that He was the Savior, my Savior.
8. That He came to set me free from the power of sin and totally change my life.

He wants to do the same for you today.

Can you see, or are you still blinded by Satan.

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