

# In The Beginning Was The Word

## John 9:13-34

### **INTRODUCTION: RELIGIOUS LEADERS QUESTION THE BLIND MAN**

This is an account of what you don't see that is important. It is not what you can see that is important, but what you can see which is important.

Jesus speaks to the religious leaders in a way that they might understand.

He tells them that just because you have eyes to see, does not make you spiritual. In fact it will hinder you in your spiritual walk. Why because you always expect to see a miracle before your very own eyes before you will believe he tells them.

You have to keep bearing in mind when we read these scriptures, that the Jews only believed in the OT and essentially only what Moses said to them in the first 5 books of the OT.

But even this they did not fully put into practice because some things they chose to disagree with Moses on as we saw previously.

This kind of worship only makes you a religious person, and does not hold any favour in Gods eyes. Why? Because they choose to ignore Gods Son.

This next section of scripture might seem to be long this morning but, it really is only the narrative of what to place after Jesus had healed the blind man. Both physical and spiritual healing took place there at the very same time.

## **John 9:13-34**

### **<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.**

1. The fact that the blind man was brought to the Pharisees tells us that they had tremendous power over the people. These Jewish leaders held the spiritual leadership and interpretation amongst the Jews. And held the power to regard or disregard people from their midst.
2. The verse also tells us that they brought to the Pharisees **him that aforetime was blind**. Which is how the scripture determines the truth for us to understand.
3. By that we can know that this was a man that was once blind, and now this man can see.
4. The word aforetime used here is the determining factor of this man was previously blind, but now he sees.
5. The Jews (They) were the ones that brought the sightseeing man to the Pharisees to give an account of the situation he had just gone through.
6. This was a blind person, who was born blind, and everyone knew it. This was no hoax.

### **<sup>14</sup> And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.**

1. The amazing thing that I find here is that Jesus healed this blind man on the Sabbath day.
2. This is not to say that Jesus did not know it was the Sabbath, but in spite of the Sabbath he healed this man. Why? Because.....
3. The Jews were also on the beat, about not doing work on the Sabbath and had made the day holy in which nothing could be done. They had taken a day of observance and turned it into a ritual. Essentially they had made man for the Sabbath literally which was not what the Lord Jesus (God) intended. That is why Jesus told them earlier that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.
4. But no, ....that was not sufficient for the religious Jews. They had to and still do place the religious burden upon man to keep their rituals, not Gods.

**Mark 2:26-28** (1 Samuel 21:5-7)

<sup>26</sup> How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? <sup>27</sup> **And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:** <sup>28</sup> **Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**

5. Jesus had identified for them to see that Gods work was more important than trying to keep man made rules. By Jesus healing on the Sabbath, it placed him in further bad light with the Jews. They Jews saw this not as Jesus being Lord of the Sabbath but that he had violated the Sabbath.
  6. This of course showed how much the Jews had drifted from the presence of God.
  7. The making of clay, however small, by mixing water and soil together, was in the Jews law, classed as work.....and therefore to them Jesus was doing work on the Sabbath day.
  8. They greatest lie satin could have ever sown was to keep people working in a religious system and to keep their eyes away from working for the Lord.
  9. Jesus had counted this argument many times with the Jews and this would not be the exception.
- One of the accounts is when Jesus again reminded them of what David did as we saw earlier in (1 Samuel 21:5-7).

**Matthew 12:1-3** At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn and to eat. <sup>2</sup> **But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.** <sup>3</sup> But he said unto them, **Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;**

10. They Lord had referred them to their very own OT scriptures. We he said to them, **Have ye not read what David did.**

<sup>15</sup> **Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.**

1. Again the Pharisees asked the same question to the blind man of how he could see? Asking the same question twice was a sure sign of their unbelief in not wanting to believe what the blind man had told them the first time and that was that a man named "Jesus" had restored his sight.
2. He had even described then earlier how Jesus had made him to see, reciting every detail of his testimony but they did not believe then and they surely do not believe him now either. (that was verse 11.)
3. The idea of salvation of being washed in the blood of the lamb brings with it here a picture of salvation, where the blind man washed in the "sent" waters, and where he was blind, he now sees. This is a wonderful picture of salvation. By being washed in the sent one who is Jesus.

**<sup>16</sup> Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.**

1. Oh to be religious is such a dangerous game to play. And many people play it. Many churches play it.
2. To play at religion is to keep yourself or the people in spiritual darkness.
3. Just like some of these Pharisees which said **This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day.** What did Jesus just through saying? And what did Jesus just get through going?. But sadly these Pharisees and those that believe like them who are religious, have not have their open eyes to see that they are spiritually blind.
4. Feel good ministries and feel good worship services do not honor God, but only the people themselves instead.
5. There was however some people there at least who were prepared to ask the right questions. Like if Jesus was a sinner how come he could do the works of miracles?
6. Even though they were divided on this question, it did not mean that they believed he was God. They just thought he was a religious person.
7. Being a religious person, does not get you to heaven, and sadly that is where most of ecumenical's are sitting.

**<sup>17</sup> They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.**

1. If you had been blind all your life, and someone came and opened your eyes what would you have said of that person?
2. Bearing in mind that all that you have ever heard was perhaps if you were lucky was the OT. Remember this was a beggar who most people would have stayed away from and would not have even talked to.
3. It does not sound like even his parents taught him either, because they left that responsibility of knowing who it was that healed him up to the blind man.
4. The blind man's only response up to this point was "**He is a prophet.**" (Deut 18:15)
5. If you did not know any better perhaps that would also have been your response.

**<sup>18</sup> But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.**

1. The Jews, and the Pharisees did not believe anything that this blind seeing man had to say.
2. They did not accept or believe his testimony and therefore wanted more proof. The testimony of the man himself was insufficient in their eyes, even though they had other witness who were the man's neighbors who witnessed and testified.
3. The proof they wanted would come from this man's parents only.
4. They could not believe that this man was blind, and neither could they believe this man's word for what happened.

**19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?**

1. The Pharisees when they had encountered the blind man's parents asked them three questions.
  - A. They firstly asked the parents if this blind man was their son?
  - B. Secondly they asked them was this their son who they said was born blind?
  - C. Thirdly they asked them how then was he able now to see?
2. It was not until they could ask these questions, would they even consider the situation of restored sight to be true.

**20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:**

1. The parents answered the questions, that he was their son and that he was in fact born blind.
2. But that is all they were prepared to risk saying.
3. They knew their limitation to what they could say with implicating themselves in the event, which otherwise would carry significant consequences for them.

**21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.**

1. The way in which the parents replied to the further question was very significant for them. Because what they said could easily have them thrown out of the Jewish synagogue.
2. They simply said in reply to the Pharisees questions, that they did not know how he was able to see again, and that they did not know by what means this had been achieved, or who was able to make him see again.
3. The parents knew that their son was now of age, to be asked those questions direct, in that way relieving them of having to say things that would make them responsible for his situation.
4. That is why you see in the scripture here in verse 21, that the parents said to the Pharisees that they must ask their son directly, because he is able to answer them, as he is of age.
5. This may also show their unbelief in also not knowing who Jesus was.

**22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.**

1. We are given the answer to the response to the Pharisees quite clearly here in verse 22, **because they feared the Jews:**
2. The parents knew that if they had dared say anything about Jesus being the one who was able to make him see again, they would definitely be in danger of being thrown out of the synagogue.
3. **for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.**
4. This was a way of instilling fear into the people if they supported anything else but Judaism. They would be out of fellowship and out of all the perks that their religion offered to them.
5. To them, religion was also more important than knowing the truth.

**23 Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.**

1. That's why we see what we see in verse 23. They wanted their son to carry the responsibility on his own.
2. They did not want to give up their Judaism comfort.

**24 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.**

1. As a result of no further information coming forth from the parents they had no choice again but to further question the blind man.
2. The Pharisees did not want Jesus to get any of the glory, neither did they want the people to think that Jesus had any part to play in the miracle.
3. Instead they told the blind seeing man to give God (the Father) the glory, so that the people would not think otherwise as to who this man Jesus claimed to be.
4. The Pharisees, the Jews even lied to the blind man when they said "**we know that this man is a sinner**". They had lied even though they knew Jesus to be telling the truth.

**25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.**

1. They never expected the reply that they would get from the blind man for sure.
2. The fact of whether anyone would or could discredit Jesus, did not change the fact that as the now seeing blind man could say. **one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.**
3. This was not what they expected to hear.
4. This should also never let us change the fact that whether we believe something or not, it should never change the fact of what God has already done for us.

**26 Then said they to him again, What did he do to thee? how opened he thine eyes?**

1. This being now the third time. The Pharisees asked the same question what did Jesus do, to make him see.

2. This kind of repetitive questioning as we saw earlier only shows their ignorance and unbelief. They could and simply did not want to believe Jesus had performed the miracle of restoring sight to the blind, which is what the OT reserves only for the Messiah.
3. This would mean that they would have to believe Jesus to be that Messiah of the OT, and that is not what they wanted to believe then or now. (Isaiah 61:1-2).

**27 He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?**

1. As a person who believed in Jesus, the blind man became the first witness to the Jews after that he himself had been spiritual and physically healed.
2. The Jews where his new audience.
3. The blind seeing man asked if the Jews were also ready to accept Jesus and to be his disciple? **“will ye also be his disciples”?**
4. This for sure would get him chucked out of the synagogue.

**28 Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.**

1. This statement caused hatred to well up in the Jews and Pharisees.
2. It put them on the defensive. The only way that they could counteract this question was by bringing up Moses name.
3. They claimed to be Moses disciple and not like him being Jesus disciple.
4. This shows great unbelief in the Jesus being their God and Messiah and there it places them in the realm of unbelief, and being religious. People like this will certainly not go to heaven.
5. The dividing line for Christians and Jews is right here. This has still not changed.

**29 We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.**

1. Tradition is a killer.
2. Believing in a religious system is a killer.
3. It kills both the physical and the spiritual aspect of a person.
4. People would rather believe in what their tradition says that what God says.

**30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.**

1. To criticize the truth without evening taking the time to verify it will make us all guilty one day, if we were faced with the true and we ignored it.
2. As Bible believing Christians we are to always check what the scriptures say about what we hear, and if it is not scriptural, don't believe it.
3. To make a decision like this seeing blind man said. To make condemn something or someone without even knowing the truth is dangerous.
4. Yet it was this unknown man that the Jews had banished was the very man who had opened his eyes.

**<sup>31</sup> Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.**

1. The only prayer form a sinner that God acts upon is the sinner's prayer.
2. A person who is a sinner and asks God to forgive them and acknowledges His Son. This is the only time that God will hear and act upon that prayer, which came from a sinner.
3. As Christina believers, the bible tells us that God hears all our prayers.

**Romans 10:9** <sup>9</sup> That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

- As a Christian we can ask God for anything in His will.

**1 John 5:13-15** <sup>13</sup> These things have I written **unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God**; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. <sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us**: <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

4. God listens to all believers prayers.

**<sup>32</sup> Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.**

1. The conformation of this verse is significant, and especially to the Jews.
2. New in the history of man, never ever even in the OT did a man even once get his sight restored by anyone, or by any means.
3. This was only to be reserved for the Messiah when he would come.
4. So this verse is a shattering verse for the Jews.

**<sup>33</sup> If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.**

1. In contrast to the verse above in verse 32. This verse 33 makes a claim that it would be impossible for anyone who was not God, to have restored the sight of any person.
2. If Jesus was not God, then this verse says that then he could not have done anything.
3. Which means only God can heal the blind man, which is in fact what he did.

**<sup>34</sup> They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.**

1. As usual and true to the Jews defense, they had to commit the blind man's action to that of sin. They had to denounce the blind man's claim, that Jesus was able to do the miracle that he did.
2. And as a result of that claim they threw him out of the synagogue.
3. That's why the parents did not want to answer their questions.

PRAYER.....CLOSE