

John 9:13-34
Closed Eyes that Cannot See

INTRO: The fix is clearly in! “There are none so blind as those who will not see.”

May our prayer be: LORD please open our eyes that we might see Jesus for who He truly is!

The self-righteous Pharisees strain gnats and swallow camels. Two concerns are raised:

- 1) There’s an alleged _____ in v. 14.
- 2) There’s an alleged _____ problem in v. 15.

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

What is the main thing you took away from this morning's exposition? What do you want to study further as a result of today's sermon?

Have you ever experienced a situation where self-righteous legalists acted in a manner akin to what we see in John 9? A situation where man-made (extrabiblical) rules were insisted upon at the expense of biblical truth/gospel grace, etc.? Very briefly explain.

The compassion and power of God in Christ are displayed in this chapter. Lord grant us eyes to see! Show us Christ! Jesus is the Great Physician. He is the long-awaited Messiah. He is the Light of the World. He is the Great I Am. Let us worship the Lord of glory! God used miracles/signs to authenticate "agents of Divine revelation" (read also Acts 2:22-24; 2 Cor. 12:12).

What is a main reason why unbelievers (past and present) question/doubt the miracles of the Bible/Christ?

In those days, to be born blind was to die blind (apart from Divine intervention). Lk 1:37. See last week's sermon introduction concerning the many challenges of blindness. Apart from the grace, mercy, and power of God in Christ we are all hopeless and blind! What is true physically (for some), is true spiritually (for all, see Eph. 2:1-10; Matt. 19:26f)! Unbelievers have closed eyes that cannot see (essential things)! When it comes to personal evangelism/local outreach/global missions we must ask God's Spirit to open so and so's eyes!

Moses, Elijah and a few other O.T. Prophets performed quite a few miracles. No one however comes close to doing what the miracle worker from Nazareth (Jesus) did over 3 years. God used mighty miracles, in part, to authenticate that everything Jesus said is the Gospel Truth (John 8:12, 32, 36, 45-46, 58; 9:5) and that everything His Son did (John 4:34; 8:55) was God-ordained. Said differently, as the Messianic Son, Jesus performed the mighty works of God. These "signs" are further proof/evidence (note Jn 20:30) of that. In view of the signs/miracles of Christ, believe and don't stop believing the true Gospel (John 20:31)!

Pharisees are consumed with extrabiblical rules and regulations! True holiness and spirituality does please the Lord. Virtue signaling, people pleasing, works righteousness does not! See Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 23. Ask the Lord to reveal any pharisaic tendencies that you may have unknowingly developed.

Jesus had been accused of breaking God's Law before. In what ways did Pharisaic Judaism morph into a Legalist religion (where extrabiblical rules and regulations and sacred traditions become primary and where the true Law of God/Christ is lost)? Provide some examples from the life of Christ as recorded in the 4 Gospels. Legalists often believe they are promoting true religion and holiness, but they mistakenly (and often unknowingly) go well "beyond what is written" (contra 1 Cor. 4:6). Legalists often "strain gnats and swallow camels." They tell people that their personal convictions concerning X, Y, Z are the absolute standards for everyone else. Legalism can take many forms (note Col. 2:16-23). Legalists often elevate external rules/guidelines and neglect internal matters of the heart. The Pharisees viewed Jesus as a threat. He is a threat to any and all false religions (including apostate Pharisaic Judaism).

If you assume that “unbelief” is no big deal as long as you’re a “good person” you are gravely mistaken! All of us must be born again! (John 3:1f). The Holy Spirit must open our eyes to see Jesus for who He truly is (and ourselves for who we truly are outside of Jesus).

Do you fear God more than man? Do you value the applause of God more than the world’s approval? What happens when believers momentarily succumb to sinful fears? Talk about some examples in your own Christian pilgrimage where you told someone what they wanted to hear rather than upholding biblical and/or gospel truth? Answer this in light of the blind man’s friends/neighbors and parents in John 9. When does it mean to deny the truth with silence? One way to overcome these temptations is to fill your mind with Scripture. Meditate this week on passages like Luke 6:22-23; Matthew 10:32-39; Hebrews 11:13-16; 24-28; 32-40; 12:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:12.

Satan loves to cancel courageous believers who refuse to throw Jesus and the biblical gospel under the bus. How might this transpire in America in our lifetime (or how has it begun to unfold already)? Example: One of our Christian public schoolteachers was “let go/fired” after he refused to teach worldly philosophies in the classroom (critical race theory/intersectionality is a neatly packaged error- note Colossians 2:1-8).

Recently we have considered the following passages and listened to these sermon expositions:

John 7:37-53. “Come to Christ, Drink the Living Water, and Be Satisfied.”

John 8:1-11. “A Coldhearted Trap, Wisdom Incarnate, and the Great Escape.” (pt. 1)

John 8:1-11. “You’re Forgiven! Go and Sin No More.”

John 8:12-20. “From Darkness to Light Through Jesus Christ.” (pt. 1)

John 8:12-20. “Who’s Your Daddy?” (pt. 2)

John 8:21-29. “The Absolute Worst Kind of Death.”

John 8:30-31. “Are You Truly a Believing Disciple?”

John 8:32-36. “The Savior’s Emancipation Proclamation.”

John 8:32-36. “The Truth About Slavery, Sonship, and Spiritual Freedom.” (pt. 2)

John 8:37-47. “The Devil’s Children and the Family of God.”

John 8:48-59. “I Am the Great I Am, That’s Who I Am.”

John 9:1-12. “Blindness and Sight For the Glory of God.”

At our regional HOME CARE GROUPS believers discuss some of these questions, pray together, and encourage one another to “excel still more.” For more information about our regional care groups please contact Pastor Kent or Cathy Solon (church secretary).

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