

John 9b

13-41

13 – 14 Jesus broke the law as they interpreted in three different ways. He made clay, which constituted work. They had so defined the law that even wearing shoes with nails was a breaking of the law by carrying a burden. You couldn't put out or light a lamp. You couldn't cut your hair or fingernails.

The second crime by their interpretation was the act of healing. Only in life threatening situations were you allowed to seek medical attention. Strangely enough it was even forbidden to put spittle on the eyelids. Did the Spirit intentionally direct Jesus to do something that would address the absurdity of their interpretations? Luke 14:1-6 Jesus even addresses the issue before the miracle was performed.

15 – 16 They wanted to hear his testimony. Some of the leaders were convinced. Miracles were the sign to Pharaoh that Moses was from God. Elijah showed his message was real and Baal's false through a miracle. (Psalms 66:18) Jesus often causes division amongst seekers and those who want to rely on the authority of man. See 7:43

17 – 18 The man who was healed testified to his conviction that Jesus was a prophet. The blind from birth being healed was something they had never seen. It was one of the proofs that He was the Messiah. Those who wanted to reject Jesus are still digging. Perhaps the miracle was a fraud. They called the parents to give testimony as to whether or not he was born blind.

19 – 20 The parents testify to the fact that their son is telling the truth. Why are the leaders so desperate to prove Jesus a sinner?

21 – 23 You would think that a parent would be willing to speak highly of the One who could heal their child's eyes. Fear kept their mouth shut. Fear keeps us from testifying. But their son speaks the truth boldly. All of us who have been miraculously healed in our hearts should have the same boldness. He knew what his parents knew, he would probably be kept from the temple, but he was loyal to the One who changed his life.

24 - 25 "Give glory to God", this is a charge to take the last chance to speak the truth. Remember in the story of Joshua and Achan, Joshua used this expression (Joshua 7:19). They still call Jesus a sinner though they cannot answer the question posed in 8:46.

26 – 27 Now the man goes one step further, he declares himself to be Jesus' disciple and asked what their problem is that they need to hear the story again. They are searching for a fault in the story to discredit this marvelous thing that was done. Sometimes man will go to extreme nit picking to insist the problem is not their own but lies in the one they have rejected.

28 –29 Now they are upset with him to the point of insulting him. They should be giving glory to God for the miracle, but they are furious because it does not fall within their own contrived definitions of goodness. The healed man's logic is simple. God would not hear him if He was a sinner. God heard Him. (Psalms 34:15; Proverbs 15:29) I'm following Him. Why don't you? That is the power of a personal testimony of transformation.

"Often we have our differences with people, and it is well that it should be so. But the moment insult and abuse and threat enter into an argument, it ceases to be an argument and becomes a contest in bitterness. If we become angry and resort to wild words and hot threats, all we prove is that our case is disturbingly weak." — Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT)

They claim to be Moses disciples, but Moses spoke of the prophet to come to Whom they must listen. This may be another jab at what they thought was Jesus' questionable parentage.

30 – 33 The healed man makes his case again. He may be saying, "You think He was born in sin and yet you know He has done an unheard of miracle. Something doesn't add up with your line of thinking."

34 A prenatal sinner? We are all sinners at birth, except the One who was miraculously conceived. Psalms 51:5

35 – 37 When we are thrown out for being genuinely honest, Jesus finds us. Chrysostom says, "The Jews cast him out of the Temple; the Lord of the Temple found him." He asked the question every man must answer. The man had faith that Jesus could reveal to him who the Messiah was because of the miracle. "You're talking to Him."

38 This was his declaration of faith. He worshipped or we could translate it 'bowed'. There are several records of the disciples worshipping. When the sea was made still (Matthew 14:33). When the women met Jesus after the resurrection (Matthew 28:9). When the disciples met Him after the resurrection (Matthew 28:17), and after the ascension (Luke 24:52). See the healed man's increasing revelation. In verse 11 he sees Him as a wonderful man. In verse 17 he has come to believe he is a prophet. Perhaps the arguments of the Pharisees drove this man to deeper faith in who Jesus was. Now in this verse he sees Him as the Messiah, the Son of Man. 2 Peter 3:18

39 He had healed a man who was literally and spiritually blind. He knew he was both so he could be healed. It is those who think they are well and need no instruction or correction that are blind. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

40 – 41 They had the Law and studied it carefully. If anyone should have been able to see, if anyone had no excuse it was these men. They were daring Jesus to tell them they were in sin because they saw themselves as the holiest of all people, the elite, the ones that were above other men.