

## John 9:13-41

*13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.*

13,14 The last day of the feast, the eighth day, began in the evening with the lighting of the candelabrum. The eighth day was the Sabbath (Leviticus 23:36). It was time for Jesus to verify that He is the Light of the world. The Spirit of God predicted through Isaiah that the Light of the world would also open the eyes of the blind 700 years earlier (Isaiah 42:6-7).

*15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."*

15 The people had brought the man to the Pharisees excitedly hoping that the leaders would now believe that Jesus was the Messiah through the Prophecy of Isaiah 42:6-7, but instead the man was interrogated.

*16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.*

16 There were two schools of thought in Jesus' day. The school of Shammai was very strict. They thought any breach of the Law, written or oral, meant the person was a sinner. This is the first voice being expressed in v 16. The second school of thought was the school of Hillel. This school was more lenient in that if the outcome was godly, the method should be considered to have been done with a good heart. This is the second opinion in v 16.

*17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."*

17 The Jews had three prophets who had performed miraculous healing, Moses, Elijah, and Elisha (2 Kings 5:10-14, Deuteronomy 34:10-12). Miracles authenticated the messenger as long as the message was in accord with Scripture. These Jewish leaders do not have any desire to authenticate Jesus. They wanted to stone him for blasphemy, not authenticate Him as the Messiah.

*18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.*

*21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."*

18-23 They know the implications and the connections with Scripture, so they just refused to believe. They thought the parents of the blind man would verify that this was all a fraud perpetrated by believers in Jesus. The parents would not answer because they feared the Jews. The fear of the parents highlights one of the fundamental reasons in John why many do not believe. They fear people more than God (John 5:44, 12:42-43).

*<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."*

24 The phrase "Give glory to God" is a phrase from Joshua when Achan was singled out by lot as the man who through disobedience has caused so much trouble for Israel (Joshua 7:19).

*<sup>25</sup> He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

25 When people refuse to believe you, just repeat the facts. This is where the author of *Amazing Grace* got that line, "was blind but now I see."

*<sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"*

26 It was now obvious they did not want to become his disciples. They did not even want the truth. They refused to hear it.

*<sup>28</sup> And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."*

28,29 In their blindness and self-righteousness the Pharisees could not see this sign, because they would have to acknowledge that they are blind and need to see anew again.

*<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."*

30-33 If we are worshippers of God and seek His will in our lives, how could God not answer a prayer that is in accord with His will (Psalm 34:15)? We are utterly dependent on God and can't accomplish anything for his Kingdom apart from Him (John 15:5).

*<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.*

34 In their blind pride they could not recognize how they were born in sin as well (Psalm 51:5). The man was cast out, but he could not trade what Jesus did for him because of the fear of man and he stood his ground in the Truth (Luke 18:28-30). The trade is this world for eternity.

*35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

35 Jesus searches out those the world rejects. He finds the ones that are thrown out (1 Corinthians 1:26). Jesus healed his physical problem and now He is about to heal the man's spiritual problem. The Son of Man is a reference to Daniel 7:13-14. He is the One who will reign forever.

*36 He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"*

36 The man was convinced that if his healer was not the Messiah, he could certainly tell him where he could find him.

*37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.*

37,38 Jesus found this man and revealed Himself to the man, all the man had to do was believe, and in believing he had received the spiritual revelation of salvation (Romans 10:8-11).

*39 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."*

39 Jesus tells us that this physical healing is a picture of the spiritual need. Acknowledging you are spiritually blind is like acknowledging you are poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3).

*40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.*

40 If you have to ask the question, guess what? You are indeed blind. Now you just need to realize it and humble yourself to ask for the light of the world to light up your darkness. The blind do not know any better and God does not hold it against them. It is those who say they can see that are held accountable. They had the Word of God that they should have been convicted by, but they justified everything they did (Luke 16:15). They said they could see, but they rejected the Son of God. Their guilt remained.

Questions

(Jory – ask some questions about the text that get to the key points.)

## QUESTIONS:

Go over the connection with the day's events and Isaiah 42:6-7.

What were the two schools of thought in play in v 16?

Why did the Pharisees not want to believe the man?

What does the oath, "Give glory to God!" refer to?

What did the healed man know for sure, and why should that have been enough?

Does God answer the prayers of unrepentant sinners?

Why did Jesus go and find the man?

Who is the Son of Man?

What does seeing spiritually have to do with guilt?

How do we vanquish guilt?