

“The Gospel of John: True Faith”

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Scripture

John 9:17-41

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

The **Jews then did not believe it of him**, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"

His parents answered them and said, "**We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind**; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be **put out of the synagogue**. For this reason, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So, a 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.**" He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though **I was blind, now I see.**"

So, they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? **You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?**"

They **reviled him** and said, "**You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.**" "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes.

"We know that God does not hear sinners; **but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.**" "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."

They answered him, "**You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?**" So, **they put him out.**

Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "**You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.**" And he said, "**Lord, I believe.**" And he worshiped Him.

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

Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" Jesus said to them, "**If you were blind, you would have no sin**; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Last Week

A blind man gets new eyes – Jesus is the Creator – He created new eyes for the man blind since birth

This Week

The Pharisees react to the man who was born blind and given new eyes by Jesus

What does True Faith look like?

Think about your family and friends-> what examples do you have of true faith in Jesus?

What are the characteristics you see in their life?

Luke 9:23 (Jesus said do 3 things)

“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me”

What does that mean to you? -> Deny yourself -> take up the cross daily -> follow Him

Does your example person do this in their life?

The Proclamation

Faced with the man with new eyes, the Jews interrogate a second time:

John 9:17

““So, they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet.”

The man with new eyes has received physical eyes

He also has received spiritual eyes

1 John 4:2-3

“By this you know the Spirit of God: **every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God**; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”

Not only A prophet but Jesus is The Promised Prophet:

Deuteronomy 18:15

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.”

The man with new eyes knows Jesus is a prophet

The Jews, however, are not so enlightened

Instead, they live in unbelief

Unbelief

I spoke of examples of True Faith in your family and friends

What does unbelief look like?

We have a great example where with these Jews:

John 9:18-19

“The **Jews then did not believe it of him**, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"

They simply would not believe that Jesus is a prophet -> **Where 2 or 3 are gathered?**

In fact, they believe He is from the Devil -> **Casts out demons by Beelzebul** (Matthew 12:24)

Twice they asked him about his new eyes

Twice he responded that Jesus healed him

They need to exert some pressure on the young man

So, what do they do?

They say, "Let's call his parents in?"

John 9:20-25

His parents answered them and said, "**We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind**; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age; he will speak for himself."

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the **Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ**, he was to be **put out of the synagogue**. For this reason, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

The parents tell the Jews that the man is their son and that he was born blind

But they do not know how it happened

“Ask him, he is of age” -> He is old enough to speak, they say

He must be at least 13 -> **Bar Mitzvah** -> “Son of the Law” – but a beggar, probably older than 13

Why defer to the son? -> John tells us why:

“**if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue**”

The Jews were going to squelch this Jesus movement if it killed them

Anyone speaking for Jesus -> kicked out

What did being put out of the synagogue mean?

If you got kicked out of our church, what would that mean to you?

You'd probably go find another church, right?

The synagogue for the Jews was a lot more significant in biblical times

This is where you made business connections

This is where your family was either recognized or shunned

Excommunication meant that your financial prosperity was in question

Your children couldn't marry into other Jewish families

If you were a farmer, no one could buy your crops

The threat of excommunication was serious pressure! -> Being persecuted for following Jesus!

The man's parents were probably of working age -> they needed the synagogue connections

Early Evangelism

John 9:24-25

"So, a 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."**

He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though **I was blind, now I see."**

With no ability to influence the parents -> the Jews return to the man

The Jews want him to **"Give glory to God"**

The irony here is -> This is something that the man was already doing

But the Jews say, **"we know that this man is a sinner"** -> they are children of the devil -> will not accept Jesus

"Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that **though I was blind, now I see."**

Jesus asked the Jews -> "Which one of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46) -> they said He had a demon!

"though I was blind, now I see" -> Early Evangelism -> Just tell "Your Story"

If you haven't become good at speaking about Jesus -> **Speak about what He has done for you!**

The young man was a beggar

As a beggar -> there is no real employment or family reputation issues to worry about in his past

You wouldn't think excommunication was that big of a threat

But his life would just be beginning with his new eyes

He could get a job, get married, start a family...he was on the cusp of opportunity

The Pupil Becomes the Teacher

The man does not stop there

He is going to proclaim what is on his heart

Jesus **CHANGED MY LIFE!** -> **How many of you remember saying that for the first time?**

I'm going to tell somebody!

But are the Jews even curious about Jesus?

Doesn't it boggle your mind? -> if there was a real miracle done, wouldn't you be curious about Jesus?

John 9:26-27

"So, they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? **You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?"**

Again, the Jews interrogate

The Jews prompt him again -> how did Jesus give him new eyes?

Maybe they wanted to know if Jesus did any "work" since it was the Sabbath day

"I told you already and you did not listen" -> when your heart is hardened, you just don't want to hear it

"Why do you want to hear it again?" – **If they get him to say something different, they can discredit him**

The man shows some frustration with their inquisition

"You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" -> two things important here

- 1) He sees himself as Jesus's disciple already
- 2) He sarcastically mocks their unbelief

Naturally, the Jews are not amused with the man

John 9:28-33

"They **reviled him** and said, "**You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.**" "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, **we do not know where He is from.**"

The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes."

The Jews reinforce that they are followers of Moses – same as in John 8

"We do not know where He is from" -> Jesus told them many times where He was from

The man continues to teach the Jews – **most likely repeating what They had taught him:**

"We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, **He hears him.**

"Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. **"If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."**

The man focuses on Jesus's works

No one had ever had new eyes given to them!

"If this man were not from God, He could do nothing" -> sound reasoning, look at His works -> Jesus did too!

John 5:36

"But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish-- the very works that I do-- testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me."

The Jews do not care about this man's argument

If you don't like someone's argument and you can't beat them in a debate

You personally discredit the debater

The Excommunication

John 9:34

"They answered him, **"You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?"** So, they put him out."

The Jews tell the man he was born entirely in sin!

So were they! -> but they believed they were the chosen ones -> not the case at all

"So, they put him out." -> **the man's life was just beginning** -> The Jews ended it

True Faith

John 9:35-41

"Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, **"You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."** And he said, **"Lord, I believe."** And he worshiped Him.

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

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Jesus goes looking for the man -> **How cool is that?**

Jesus brings reward with Him -> the man is going to get personal time with the Master!

Why? -> He exhibited True Faith -> He was willing to give up his newfound life for the Master!

"For judgment I came into this world" -> Contrast with **John 3:17** -> "God did not send the Son to judge..."

Jesus is the stumbling stone -> the rock of offense -> the critical question for all mankind

John 3:18

"He who believes in Him is not judged; **he who does not believe has been judged already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

"If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Jews have no excuse -> If they think they aren't sinners, they remain in sin

Communion Prayer -> **How is Your Faith?**

Benediction