

John 9:24 – 41

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~ We passed by a man who had been blind since birth in our last report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. Jesus gave this man sight for the first time. The religious rulers found themselves in a very precarious position as a result of his blindness being healed. They were forced to admit a miracle had occurred. They fetched his parents who testified that the man had, in fact, been born blind. They also testified that he was now able to see very clearly. The only mystery remaining was: how? No one is prepared to explain that, and the Pharisee's are demanding an explanation. You can see how this situation could escalate into a big problem. So, when they cannot deny the miracle that Jesus had performed, they concoct a desperate attempt to discredit Him....

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.

~ Apparently, some of the Pharisee's cannot control their emotions any longer. Ever since the incident at the temple with the woman caught in the very act of adultery in chapter eight, they have increasingly come unglued. The only two problems with the Pharisee's calling Christ a sinner are that He was sinless - and they were sinners. Apparently, Jesus was correct calling them hypocrites. People can be so pious about this today. Most want to bi-pass the Lord Jesus Christ within the framework of their lives and come to God their own way - on their own terms - for their own selfish ends.

Well, the blind man that was healed of blindness is becoming weary of looking at the Pharisee's. This man never even saw Who healed him, but they won't stop pressing him about who it was. The man honestly did not know. Of course, they already knew who had done the healing. That brings out the man's testimony in verse twenty-five. It happens to be my personal testimony as your safari leader, too, by the way. It's short – it's fitting – it is exactly correct of my life....

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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.

~ If that is not your testimony as a sinner who has been saved by grace, then you have never been saved, my friends. If you do not recognize a very definite demarcation between a time in your life that you were in total spiritual darkness and this time of spiritual light; then, may I say again, you're still in darkness. You never came out of it. There was a time in my life that I did not know Christ as my Savior, but I know Him that way now, friends. What's more important: Christ knows ME as His own.

What we have here is rather simple. It can be trivialized effortlessly, completely minimized and made a moot point very easily. Because of that, we need to be extremely mindful of how we teach this principle. This is an important lesson; and it is very, very misunderstood by contemporary Christians. It's easy to read the Bible and miss such a simplistic statement of profundity. Once, I was blind; now, I see. What more is there to say? Well, what I can tell you is that it is a wonderful thing to be able to see after being blind from birth. If a man cannot give that simplistic spiritual testimony, then, quite frankly, I don't need to hear anything he has to say about the Bible - or anything else, for that matter. I'm just not interested.

I hear and read some long-winded testimonies around this forum on which I teach that are deeply troubling and wearisome. Many times, all I can do is hang my head in shame at what people are saying. Most "witnessing" is so padded, embellished and polished up that they, actually, become quite attractive. The Pharisee in your church will love it. I remember a man in a church I attended who could come forward and give the same dramatically tearful testimony every single Sunday morning - and every Wednesday night, too. He was a little too visible....

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

~ The Pharisee's, actually, go into a frenzy trying to find the slightest flaw that will allow them to explain away the miracles of Jesus. Today, most seminary graduates can completely explain away the miracles of the Lord Jesus; but the religious rulers in the day we are studying didn't have the advantage of a two thousand year and five-thousand-mile separation of time and space. When one doesn't have Jesus in front of them, denial is easy. Well, the religious rulers of the day in which we are studying have a man on their hands that had been blind an hour ago, and now he can see, and the crowd is beginning to question the Pharisee's authority because of this. When you find yourself in this situation, an explanation is going to be required. They want to know how it was done - and they aren't planning to stop interrogating until they get this resolved....

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?

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

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

~ Well, the Pharisees asked a question, but they won't accept the answer, as usual. They simply refuse to hear the truth. They are spiritually blind and spiritually deaf now, also. This healed man just became a little sarcastic with the religious rulers. The answers are thoroughly logical, but the healed man can only act on and give the knowledge that he had. This man has still never physically seen Jesus. As the religious authority, the Pharisee's should have accepted Christ and put Him forward. If they had, then He WOULD have established His Kingdom at that time. That would have been the only way for them to experience freedom from the slavery of Rome. Instead of accepting Him, they want to kill Him....

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.

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

32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

~ That statement is unanswerable. So, the Pharisee's do what men do when they cannot meet an argument, or they do not have a satisfactory explanation for what is being said. This next action the religious rulers take is exactly what the so-called Christian today does when the facts confound and contradict them. They insult and they cast out. These people honestly believe they are excommunicating us when they're actually casting themselves further into condemnation....

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

~ Now, it is no small matter being cast out because, even though he is healed, he is now also shut out from the temple, banned from doing any business, and they were relegating him to the status of a leper again; effectively announcing he was to be excluded from everything religious and everything social - because they decree it so. The reason they do this is because they want to make null and void the healing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ....

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

~ If you're going to be saved, you are going to have to put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, friends. The Lord has now prepared this man. His faith was strengthened in the confrontation with the religious rulers. He is now

capable of thinking very clearly about the entire dramatic event. His question of an answer is sincere in verse thirty-six. The most interesting thing is that this man desires to take this to the next level. He now desires knowledge of God....

37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

~ The Lord Jesus is speaking to us today, friends - and He happens to be doing so in one of the finest instances accounted for in the Word of God. The steps are outlined for us in a man that has been born blind, but who took those steps to come to the Lord Jesus in faith. Step by step, we saw the Lord bring a man unto His Own. He's worshipping and believing now. Before we are born again, we are blind sinners. Before we are born again, we don't even recognize our spiritually dead condition. Then, we come to Christ, and when we see Him, our eyes are opened. We see Who He is, and we can clearly see what He has done for us. The question is; will you believe it and accept it? This man said, "... Lord, I believe!" Then, the man worships the Lord Jesus....

39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

~ We have a very strange statement made here - and the man must have winced when considering blindness again. Some have spiritual eyes, and they see. Others don't. Just because we have physical eyes does not mean we see spiritual things. The natural man receiveth not the things of the Lord Jesus; rather, they are foolishness to them, and neither can they know them because they are only spiritually discerned.

A man was blinded by an explosion and trapped in a mine. After several days in the darkness, the rescue crew reached them. The first thing they did was establish lighting. As they turned on the light, everyone cheered - except for one man who asked, "... why don't you turn on the lights before

you celebrate?” When we come into the presence of Christ, but we still say we do not see, or if we ask as Pilate asked, “... what is truth?” - then let me say this very kindly to you: you’re as blind as a man can be. You cannot see spiritual light. That is your diagnosis. The heathen, as we think of them, live in darkness. When the light is shone upon them, and someone who can see is present, then that person will also see – and – my friends, THAT is when you will feel the presence of the Lord in your midst.

Jesus made the preparation, and then went away from this man until it was the right time to bring him back into His presence. Any man in this world who desires to know Jesus will receive the Gospel if they are sincere in their desire. If you have ever sat in a church pew or read one of my reports then you are in the presence of the light, my dear friends. You have had the light is all I can say; and if you can't see clearly, then you likely stopped reading a long time ago. Candidly, I am now your worst enemy because I have brought you into the presence of the Savior of the world and you have rejected Him – that’s really all there is to say about that...

40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

~ This leg of our safari began with a blind man, but that man now sees. Tragically, we have progressed to seeing blind religious leaders. We close this report with a Christian Tragedy of epidemic proportions. The blind are wandering around all over the place today, but most of them don’t have a white cane with a red tip that we can know them by. In the presence of the light, revelation, and the very presence of a Holy and True and Living God, some still insist that they have no sin. That translates directly into, “... why doesn’t someone turn on the lights before we cheer?” The truly frightening thing is that when we put this in the spiritual realm, blind people say they can see. People accuse me of being dogmatic, but the atheist and the liberal are the most closed-minded men I have ever met in my life. They say they see, but they don’t see their sin. In fact, they deny sin exists. So, our

Spiritual Safari closes out this report with a very clear teaching – unless you're blind. If you have never accepted Christ and received Him, I pray you will do so right now. If you have, I am praying He will bring you all wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment in His Word - and draw you closer to Him in Holy Writ ~

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