

# *The Gospel of John*

## 9:13-34

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.  
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

Last week's study we read of how Jesus healed a blind man who was that way from birth. As he was healed, others saw him and noticed a change in him, and they asked what had happened to him and he told them.

✠ **John 9:11** *He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."*

Pretty simple, right? But not for the people, they didn't know what was going on. All they knew was that this man named Jesus healed him. So in their confusion they bring him to the Pharisees, which we will start with this week.

✠ **John 9:13-14** *They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.*

Can you see these Pharisees right now? Here it is the Sabbath day and Jesus made some clay from dirt and his saliva. In other words, they considered this working on the Sabbath day. The people had explained what had happened, but the Pharisees wanted to hear it from this man himself.

✠ **John 9:15** *Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."*

Once again telling the truth of what happened and not trying to get into a big theological debate with them, even though he could have quoted them from Exodus.

✠ **Ex 4:11** *So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?"*

But he rather chose to tell them what had happened. After all, who can refute a first hand account of what really happened.

✠ **John 9:16-17** *Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."*

Now these religious leaders are arguing amongst themselves because some figured that Jesus worked on the Sabbath day, therefore He couldn't be from God. On the other hand, others figured if Jesus healed this blind man, then He wasn't a sinner, maybe even wondering about their own beliefs and wondering if they had gone to far with God's commandments.

So they ask the man what he thought, after all, he was the one who was healed. So was this Jesus who healed him, a sinner, or a man of God?

✎ *He said, "He is a prophet."*

In other words, a man of God who speaks what God tells him to. We also know that the prophets of the Old Testament had healing power from God as well.

† **1 Kings 17:22** *Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.*

† **2 Kings 5:10 & 14** *And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."*

*So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*

But this was much more than a prophet who healed this blind man. He didn't know this at the time, but he did know that this man Jesus was from God.

They didn't really like this answer, so they get pretty low and asks his parents.

✎ **John 9:18-23** *But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."*

Searching for something, anything to disprove this man's claims.

Now is that loving parents are what? So worried about what the religious system would do if they told the truth about how their son had received his sight.

You would think that they would have been excited about it. For years this man may have had to live at home, because he couldn't work and take care of himself. He was very likely single and had no real friends, but was probably considered an outcast because of

his blindness. Even the parents may have walked around in shame because their son had to beg just to eat. People probably talked behind their backs wondering what sin they had committed that God would give them a blind child.

But all of that was over, a new life was in store for this man, but all they cared about was if they would be thrown out of the synagogue.

Before we get down on these parents too much, the same thing happens even today with cults and false religions. If the child leaves the cult or false religion and turns to Jesus Christ, he or she will be excommunicated or cast out, and if the parents are asked about it and they even seem to agree or condone what the child is doing, they also can be thrown out. So to save their own skin they will keep quiet or play ignorant like this man's parents did.

In the world if someone comes to the Lord and the parents are not Christians, then they will be outcasts in a sense, because even the parents want nothing to do with their child because of their relationship with the Lord.

Even in this case they may have known that Jesus had truly healed their son, because they never denied it. Although they answered that they didn't know how it happened. I think they really did but they were afraid of being cast out of the synagogue. So they wouldn't say that Jesus was the one who healed him. They would rather have their son cast out to save their own skin. But they played the politician and walked around the issue all together.

 *He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.*

In your new walk with the Lord, you may see yourself being excluded from family things because your family doesn't know what is going on with you. They see a change and they can't understand it. In a sense they may even be afraid of this change in you, because you are not like your old self, no matter how rotten you were.

The world has its own religion, which they call "self". In this religion, they teach you that self is the most important person in the world. Sure you can help others, but make sure that you help yourself too.

When you come to Jesus Christ, you start to learn that there are more important things in life than self. You start to see those around you and the needs that they have. So you start to push self aside and start serving others, just as Jesus did.

The world does not understand this, and they think that we are crazy or that we are trying to earn our way into heaven.

We are not crazy, nor are we trying to earn our way into heaven. Jesus paid the price for us, so there is nothing to earn.

Everyone here that was questioning this man all had their own religion that they were concerned with; even his parents were more concerned with religion than the truth.

So what else could they do but try to disprove what the man said about Jesus? Ask him again what had happened they said. Possibly hoping that he would change his story to save his own skin or even his parents.

✎ **John 9:24-26** *So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"*

*Give God the glory?* I thought he was.

They understood this, but they didn't want to believe this claim that Jesus was a man of God. The Pharisees spent their whole time trying to disprove all that Jesus said, and even tried to catch Jesus in some sort of lie. They even questioned Jesus over and over, trying to trick Him.

✠ **Matt 22:18 (NLT)** *But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Whom are you trying to fool with your trick questions?"*

But Jesus' answers always proved them wrong.

✠ **Matt 22:22 (NLT)** *His reply amazed them, and they went away.*

So if they couldn't catch Jesus in a lie or fool Him, then they had to attack one of His believers.

So the man answers the Pharisees with one of my favorite verses.

✎ **John 9:27** *He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"*

Can't you just see the Pharisees right now, mouths dropping wide open in disbelief!

The same thing happens to us, we are questioned over and over, and it makes you wonder if they want to become Christians to.

But just like these Pharisees, they just want to argue and prove their false religion is right. Jesus said,

✠ **Matt 7:6** *Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*

People who just want to argue don't really want to know the truth. We need to be careful that we don't spend all our energy on those who want to argue, rather than those who are really searching for the truth.

Paul also wrote.

† **1 Tim 6:3-5** *If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.*

So the Pharisees are furious with what the man asked them and they responded with.

✠ **John 9:28-29** *Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."*

Jesus explained to them over and over that He was from God and even answered their claim about Moses and where He was from, back in the previous chapters.

† **John 5:45-46** *Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.*

† **John 8:23** *And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."*

The world does not believe or even understand Jesus' words, because they don't check them out for themselves. They only go by what someone else says. They claim there are inconsistencies throughout the bible. But the truth is, they never read or studied the bible; they are just saying it because they heard someone else say it. But it's not true, and they would rather believe a lie than find out the truth for themselves.

They will watch the Ten Commandments on TV and think they know the whole bible or they don't need to hear anymore.

God will not ask anyone when he or she dies if they saw the Ten Commandments with Charleston Hesston. Moses is not the star (so to speak) of the bible. The bible does not testify about Moses, Abraham or anyone else other than Jesus Christ.

† **John 5:39** *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*

† **Acts 18:28** *for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.*

If you want to find out the truth, search it out yourself. Don't take my word or anyone else's word. Search God's word and try to prove Him wrong. You won't, but you can still try and if you are serious then you will find the truth.

So enough is enough for this man. He has been asked over and over again and these guys just don't get it. At this point I believe the Lord was speaking through him and he answers them one last time.

✠ **John 9:30-33** *The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."*

I have been healed from God, how could you not understand that this man is from God. God won't grant a sinful request, so how could you call him a sinner?

*"God, please let me win the Lotto this week."*

*"If you would give me that man or woman, I would be grateful God, because he/she is so hot looking."*

*"God, please let my team win this week, I have a lot of your money bet on them."*

*"God please give me this car or house."*

Sinful requests that are asked for personal gain or pleasure. So does God really not hear the requests or prayers of sinners?

Yes, and no.

✠ **James 4:3** *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

✠ **Matt 7:22-23** *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

✠ **1 Chron 28:9** *As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.*

✠ **Psalms 18:40-41** *You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me. They cried out, but there was none to save; Even to the LORD, but He did not answer them.*

✠ **Psalms 66:18** *If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.*

✠ **Prov 15:8** *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,*

*But the prayer of the upright is His delight.*

† **Prov 15:29** *The LORD is far from the wicked,  
But He hears the prayer of the righteous.*

† **Micah 3:4** *Then they will cry to the LORD,  
But He will not hear them;  
He will even hide His face from them at that time,  
Because they have been evil in their deeds.*

God does not listen to the prayers of the wicked; I think scripture makes that very clear, don't you?

But there is a prayer of the wicked that the Lord will listen to.

† **Isaiah 55:7** *Let the wicked forsake his way,  
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
Let him return to the LORD,  
And He will have mercy on him;  
And to our God,  
For He will abundantly pardon.*

† **2 Chron 7:14** *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves,  
and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear  
from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

That is the prayer of repentance.

Maybe you are not a Christian and you have been asking God for all sorts of things and your prayers or requests are going unanswered. First you must come to the Lord with a repentant heart and turn from your sins. After you do you will pray and the Lord will hear you. But then after that, the things you now ask for, you may find that you don't really want them anymore, and your requests will be totally different. Not for your own pleasure any more, but for God's glory!

☞ *Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of  
one who was born blind*

I don't recall nor could I find any instance in the Old Testament of where a blind man was healed.

But it does tell of one who will come to heal the blind, and that one is Jesus.

☞ **Isaiah 42:6-7** *I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness,  
And will hold Your hand;  
I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people,  
As a light to the Gentiles,  
To open blind eyes,*

*To bring out prisoners from the prison,  
Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.*

This is not only physical but spiritual also.

A red face with steam coming out of their ears is the only way I can explain what the Pharisees reaction and response to the man was.

✠ **John 9:34** *They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.*

Just like the world, they think we are crazy and they have cast all Christians away as lunatics. After all, if you don't understand something, or you are proved wrong, get rid of it. At least that's the world's motto.

We are outcasts just like this man was, but our comfort comes in Jesus Christ. Next week we will read about this comfort as we finish chapter nine.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you *always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.* **1 Peter 3:15b**