

### 34. Jesus Was Recognized as a Prophet by the Man Formerly Blind

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children realize that many people are unwilling to repent of their sin of unbelief because of their fear of other people. That is one reason why it is necessary for the Holy Spirit to convict them of the sin of unbelief and for the Father to draw them to Christ. In our topic today, we will see how the Father was drawing the man who was formerly blind to Jesus.

We saw, as we concluded our last topic, that the man who was formerly blind told the neighbors he was the one who was born blind. As a result, the neighbors asked a series of questions of the man. John 9:10-12 says, “Therefore they said to him, ‘How were your eyes opened?’ 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.’ Then they said to him, ‘Where is He?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’” We see that the neighbors began by asking the question, “How were your eyes opened?” Jesus knew that the neighbors would ask this question. Perhaps that is why Jesus chose to heal the eyes of the man the way that He healed him.

We are going to see that as the man answered the questions of the neighbors, and later the questions of the Pharisees, he grew in his understanding of who Jesus was. We see in his first answer that the formerly blind man just called Jesus “...a Man named Jesus”. At this point, the man understood very little about the One who had healed him. As a result, he first explained what Jesus did. He explained that, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes.” Jesus is a God of variety. Every blind person that Jesus healed was healed in a somewhat different way. This man had mud mixed from dust and spit put on his eyes. Jesus had used two very ordinary things mixed together to heal the man.

Then, the man went on to explain what Jesus told him to do. Jesus said, “Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.” The water in the Pool of Siloam came from the spring of Gihon and the water from that spring had been used by the people of Israel for hundreds of years. Solomon was anointed as king near this spring. Later, Hezekiah made a tunnel to bring this water into the city of Jerusalem. 2 Chronicles 32:30 says, “This same Hezekiah also stopped the water outlet of Upper Gihon, and brought the water by tunnel to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah prospered in all his works.” Since this water had been used for hundreds of years, the neighbors knew that it was not the spit, the dust or the water that had given sight to the man. However, they could see that this man who they knew had received his sight and could see for the first time in his life.

The next question that the neighbors asked was, “Where is He?” The man could only answer “I do not know.” At this point, the man had no idea what Jesus looked like because Jesus had not gone with the man when he went and washed the mud from his eyes at the Pool of Siloam. Jesus wanted this man to grow in his understanding of who Jesus was by answering the questions of the neighbors and later the Pharisees. This is a key principle to help people grow in their understanding of Jesus. When people have to answer the questions of others, they also grow in their own understanding. That was what happened with this man.

John 9:13-16 says, “They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 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.’ 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.” The neighbors could not understand what had happened to this man so they decided to bring him to the Pharisees. Here, we see that we are given some key information for what is going to happen when the Pharisees question the man. We see that it was on the Sabbath day that Jesus had healed the man. That was certain to upset the Pharisees.

The Pharisees asked the same basic question that the neighbors had asked. They immediately asked the man how he had received his sight. The formerly blind man gave the same basic answer to the Pharisees that he had given to the neighbors. He said, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” This man described what Jesus had done and also told how it had changed his life. He had been blind and now he could see. He was excited and filled with happiness because his life had been changed.

In contrast, the Pharisees were very upset. Jesus had not kept the traditions that had been set by the Pharisees. He had healed this man on the Sabbath day. As a result, they said that Jesus could not be from God. Jesus had healed a man with a withered hand in Galilee and received a similar reaction. Luke 6:7-10 says, “So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him. But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Arise and stand here.’ And he arose and stood. Then Jesus said to them, ‘I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?’ And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.” Jesus showed by His example that the Law did not condemn the doing of good on the Sabbath.

Jesus also healed other people on the Sabbath. Each time, there were Pharisees who condemned Him. One other example is in Luke 14:2-6 where we read, “And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’ But they kept silent. And He took *him* and healed him, and let him go. Then He answered them, saying, ‘Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?’ And they could not answer Him regarding these things.” The lawyers and Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus but He showed that they would work on the Sabbath day to rescue an animal.

When the Pharisees said Jesus could not be from God, other people asked the question, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” These people recognized that a great miracle had been done. They felt that it was impossible for any person that was a sinner to do such signs. Here, we see that some of the leaders realized that this was a sign from God because sinners could not heal a man who had been blind from the time that he was born. Suddenly, we see that there was a division among the leaders. Some were condemning Jesus because He did not follow their traditions. Others were saying that He had to be from God in order to do such a miracle.

Growing Godly Family Series – Helping Our Children Present Jesus as the Son of God 34. “Jesus Was Recognized as a Prophet by the Man Formerly Blind”

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As a result, they decided to ask the blind man what he thought about the One who had opened His eyes. John 9:17-18 says, “They said to the blind man again, ‘What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’ 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.” Here, we see that the leaders suddenly decided to ask the man who had been healed what he thought about the man who had healed him.

The man had not yet seen Jesus because Jesus was not there when he washed the clay from his eyes. However, he had been listening and thinking as he listened to the neighbors and the religious leaders. He was in agreement with those who said that Jesus had to be from God in order to open his eyes. As he thought about what he knew from the Word of God, he realized that the people in the various books who did such miracles had all come from God. That included individuals like Moses, Elijah and Elisha. As a result, the man said, “He is a prophet.” Every person who had done a miracle similar to opening the eyes of a blind person had been sent by God to Israel.

His answer did not please the religious leaders that wanted an excuse to condemn Jesus and put Him to death. As a result, they decided to make sure that this man was not trying to deceive them. The religious leaders contacted the parents of this man to find out if he had actually been born blind. Here, we see that the religious leaders did not believe either the neighbors or the man. John 12:37-40 explains, “But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: ‘Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?’ Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: ‘He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.’” The religious leaders refused to believe the signs that Jesus had given through His miracles because their hearts were controlled by unbelief.

We will see that the parents did say that this was their son. The parents also said that he had been born blind. However, they refused to answer how their son had been healed because they were controlled by fear. This gives us an example of the power of fear that the religious leaders had used to control the rest of the Jews. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand the fact that many people try to control others by fear. That is one of the many results of the original sin of Adam and Eve. Adam told God, “I was afraid and hid myself because I was naked.” His life had become controlled by fear, guilt and shame. We want to help our children learn to explain that people will use these three things to try to control others. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand that fear, guilt and shame are the result of sin.