

### 35. Jesus Was Proclaimed as the One Who Gives Sight

We saw in our last topic that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand how the sin nature affects people. We saw that the parents of the man born blind were unwilling to tell how their son had been healed as a result of their fear of the religious leaders. We will learn more about their fear in this topic.

The religious leaders questioned the parents of the man who was born blind. John 9:19-23 says, “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.’ Here, we see that the religious leaders wanted to make certain that the neighbors of the man were telling the truth. They showed that they did not believe either the man or the neighbors.

The religious leaders actually had three questions. The first question was, “Is this your son?” The parents answered that they knew that this was their son. The second question they asked was to find out if their son had been born blind. The parents answered that he had been born blind. The third question was, “How then does he now see?” The parents actually gave several answers to this third question. The reason for several answers was due to the fact that the parents were controlled by fear. Their first answer was, “By what means he now sees we do not know.” Their second answer was, “Who opened his eyes we do not know.” Third they said, “He is of age; ask him.” Finally, they said, “He will speak for himself.” The next verse shows us that the parents actually knew the answers to these things but were controlled by fear.

The parents, actually, told lies because they were controlled by fear. They chose to lie about their son because they had a greater fear of the religious leaders than a godly love for their son. 1 John 4:18 says, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” A worldly love is often controlled by lust. A family love causes family members to have a commitment to one another. Godly love was demonstrated by the Father when He sent Christ to this earth to pay for our sins. That same love was shown by Christ when He willingly gave His life for our sins. As a result, the characteristic of godly love is sacrifice. The parents were unwilling to tell the truth about their son because they knew that there would be sacrifice involved. The religious leaders had already agreed that anyone who confessed that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. The parents were more concerned about being a part of the synagogue than they were to tell the truth about their son. As a result, they said, “He is of age; ask him.”

However, we are going to see that the son had a very different attitude than the parents. John 9:24-26 says, “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?” Since the parents would not answer the questions of the religious leaders, they called for the man who had formerly been blind and talked directly to him.

Instead of trying to question him, the religious leaders tried to tell the man what to do. They also gave their own opinion about who Jesus was. First, they told him to give God the glory! This was exactly what the man was doing. However, the religious leaders refused to admit that Jesus was God. Jesus had violated their religious traditions and so they were determined to destroy Him. Jesus had told the religious leaders in John 8:44-46, “You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?” They could not convict Jesus of sin because He had committed no sin. They would not believe Jesus because they were unwilling to face the truth about themselves.

As a result, the religious leaders went on to give their own opinion about Jesus. They said that they knew that Jesus was a sinner. When the word translated “know” is talking about human knowledge it means *to see with the eyes or to know from observation*. The religious leaders had never seen Jesus commit any sin. They did see Him heal people on the Sabbath and that broke their traditions. Jesus had made it very clear that it was right to do good on the Sabbath. John 5:16 says, “For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.” That was the response of these same religious leaders when Jesus healed a man who had been crippled for 38 years. The religious leaders were still angry because Jesus broke their traditions.

The man who had formerly been blind quickly answered the religious leaders by saying, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.” Here, we see that the man told the Jews what he did not know and then he told them what he knew. He had not yet seen Jesus because Jesus was not there when he washed his eyes at the Pool of Siloam. Later, he would learn that Jesus was the Son of God and would worship Him. John 9:38 says, “Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” Once the man did see Jesus, he recognized Jesus as the Son of God and worshiped Him. However, that did not happen until an hour or two later.

After telling the religious leaders what he did not yet know, the man went on to tell them the thing that he knew for sure. He knew that he had been blind ever since he was born. He also knew that he could now see. Then, the religious leaders asked the man two more questions. First, they asked him, “What did He do to you?” Second, they asked him, “How did He open your eyes?” The religious leaders showed by their questions that they still wanted to be able to condemn Jesus. We see the answer of the man in John 9:27-29 where we read, “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?’ 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.” Here,

we see that the man answered their questions by some questions of his own.

He first told them that he had already told them what Jesus did. Then, he told them that they did not listen. The word translated “listen” means *to hear, to find out, to learn or to understand*. In John 8:47, Jesus had said, “He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.” The reason why the religious leaders could not understand what the man had said was due to the fact that they had already chosen to reject Jesus. As a result, they could not hear with understanding when this man told them that Jesus had healed his blindness.

Then, the man began to question the religious leaders. He asked them two questions. First, the man asked, “Why do you want to hear it again?” This question asked the religious leaders why they were motivated to ask him again. Second, the man asked, “Do you also want to become His disciples?” Of course, we know that was certainly not the reason that they asked the man again. However, this question forced them to either accept the fact that Jesus was truly from God or else they had to show their own rejection of Jesus as God. We will see by their answer that they quickly showed that they were hypocrites and did not want to follow Jesus.

The word translated “reviled” means *to speak against or to heap abuse upon a person*. Peter used this word in the first phrase of 1 Peter 2:23 where we read, “Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously.” Peter shows in this verse that these same religious leaders reviled Jesus when He was on the cross. However, Jesus did not return their verbal abuse. In fact, Luke 23:34 says, “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garments and cast lots.” Instead, Jesus asked the Father to forgive all of those who spoke against Him or did evil things to Him that day as He hung on the cross.

The religious leaders told the man that they were disciples of Moses and not disciples of Jesus. They said that they knew that God spoke to Moses. God did speak to Moses but the religious leaders were not his disciples. In fact, just a few months later, they would condemn Jesus to death, even though Jesus had committed no sin. This meant that they became the murderers of Jesus and violated the Law of Moses. Then they mocked Jesus as well as the man by saying, “As for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.” That statement again showed that they had chosen to reject Jesus even though the miracle that Jesus had done was a sign to them. We will see in our next topic that the opposition of the religious leaders to Jesus only caused this man to come to a better understanding of who Jesus was.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children realize that when people have chosen to reject Jesus, we will not persuade them by debate. Instead, the Lord is the only One who can change the rebellion in their hearts. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand the rebellious nature of sinful men.