

36. Jesus Was Worshiped as the Son of God

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children realize that when people are controlled by rebellion against Jesus in their hearts, we cannot persuade them by debate. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts them of their sin of unbelief and it is the Father who draws them to Christ. Our ministry is to share the Word of God in love so that the Holy Spirit and the Father can each do their part in the salvation of such rebellious individuals. In our topic today, we will see that the understanding of the man born blind grew as He answered the questions of the religious leaders.

We saw that the religious leaders said they were disciples of Moses. However, they had shown by their unbelief that they were not true disciples. In contrast, we see that the man born blind was growing in his understanding of Jesus as he continued to talk with the religious leaders. John 9:30-34 says, “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.’ They answered and said to him, ‘You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?’ And they cast him out.” Here, we see the growing understanding of the man who had been born blind.

The word translated “marvelous thing” means *that which is surprising, amazing or beyond human understanding*. 1 Peter 2:9 says, “But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” This verse shows us the fact that it is beyond our understanding that Jesus called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Matthew 21:42 says, “Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes”?’” The fact that the builders of the temple in the time of Solomon threw away the cornerstone or most important stone in the building is beyond human understanding. The man asked the religious leaders why it was beyond their understanding that they did not realize that Jesus came from God.

Then, the man explained to the religious leaders the thing they could not understand. He said that God did not hear sinners. He said that God did hear those who worshiped Him and did His will. The religious leaders did not do either of these things. They did not worship God. They did not obey God. Then, the man pointed out the fact that there was no recorded history that a man born blind had received his sight. Finally, the man concluded His words by saying, “If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” This statement caused the religious leaders to have even greater anger. As a result, they used their words to make a personal attack on the man.

The religious leaders said, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” They tried to make it sound like they were righteous and this man was a sinner. They told him that he was completely born in sins. That was true but it was also true of the religious leaders. They were just as sinful as the man who had been born blind. Then, in their anger they said, “Are you teaching

us?” He was actually teaching them the truth but they were unwilling to accept the truth. In their anger, they did to this man the very thing that the parents had feared for themselves. They cast him out, which meant that he could no longer participate in the synagogue services.

We see how Jesus responded when He heard how the religious leaders had rejected the man. John 9:35-38 says, “Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of God?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’ Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” Here, we see that Jesus chose to go looking for this man so that He could offer Him the gift of salvation and the forgiveness of sins. When Jesus found the man, He asked one question, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” At this point, this man was like the whitened harvest that Jesus described to His disciples in John 4:35. That verse says, “‘Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!’” The heart of this man was prepared and ready to repent of the sin of unbelief and place his faith in the One who was the Son of God.

The man answered Jesus with both a question and a statement. The question was, “Who is He, Lord?” The man had not seen Jesus until this moment. However, he immediately recognized the voice as the voice of the One who had placed the clay on his eyes and told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man had already said that Jesus was a Prophet. He had grown in his understanding of the fact that Jesus had to come from God as he had been questioned by the religious leaders. As a result, he was ready to believe as soon as his question was answered. That is why his question concluded with the statement that He wanted to believe in the One who is the Son of God.

Jesus gave this man a very interesting answer when He said, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” This man had only had his sight for an hour or two. As a result, this meant that the only time he could have seen the One who is the Son of God was during that time period. However, the second part of the answer of Jesus made it clear to the man that Jesus was the One who is the Son of God. The man suddenly realized that the One to whom he was talking was not only a Prophet but was also the Son of God. He may have suddenly realized that Jesus fulfilled the promise in Deuteronomy 18:15 which says, “‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’” This man heard with understanding and recognized that Jesus was the Prophet who was also the Son of God.

The response of the man was immediate. He said, “‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” He immediately recognized Jesus as Lord. He also told Jesus that He believed in Him. However, the man did one more thing. We see that he immediately worshiped Jesus. His words and actions immediately caused the angels of heaven to rejoice. Luke 15:10 says, “‘Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’” This man had not been born blind because of either his sin or the sins of his parents. Instead, this man had been born blind to bring glory to God. This caused him to receive a double blessing that day. First, he received physical sight. Second, he now received spiritual sight. Some the Pharisees heard what

the man said.

Jesus made a very important statement that caused those Pharisees to ask a question. John 9:39-41 says, “And Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.’ Then *some* of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, ‘Are we blind also?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, “We see.” Therefore your sin remains.’” Jesus may have been thinking of Isaiah 6:10 as he spoke these words to the man while some of the Pharisees were also listening. That verse says, “‘Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed.’” The Pharisees had been blinded by their own pride.

Jesus said in Luke 19:10, “‘For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’” Jesus came to seek and to save. However, most of the Pharisees and other religious leaders had chosen to reject Him because their eyes had been blinded by their sin. As a result, the message of life to others was also a message of judgment to those who rejected. John 3:36 says, “‘He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.’” By their rejection of the life that Jesus offered, the message of life became a message of judgment to those who did not turn to Jesus. That same thing is true today.

Some of the Pharisees heard what Jesus had said. As a result, they asked, “Are we blind also?” The verse from Isaiah quoted above showed that their problem was spiritual blindness. Spiritual blindness is the result of the sin of unbelief. John 16:9 says, “‘Of sin, because they do not believe in Me.’” Once Adam and Eve sinned, they became spiritually blind. That spiritual blindness was passed on to all of their descendants. That is why Jesus had promised in John 8:12, “‘Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” John would later write in 1 John 2:11, “‘But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.’” The religious leaders were controlled by their hatred for Jesus. They were afraid that He would cause them to lose their power over the people. That was why they refused to come to the One who is the Light. That was why they remained in sin.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain that Jesus is the One who can give Light to those who are still blinded by the darkness of sin. The man who had been born blind had received both physical sight and spiritual sight. John 3:21 says, “‘But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.’” We want to equip our children to explain to others how to receive spiritual sight so that those who hear have the opportunity to turn from spiritual darkness to the spiritual light. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to lead others to the One who is the Light.