

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

March 10, 2021

John 9: 13 - 25

13 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. 14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. 15 Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. 16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. 17 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. 18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? 20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: 21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. 22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask 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. 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.

Pastor Tom will cover this passage verse by verse.

Verse 13

They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

*First question is who is 'they'? Probably not the Pharisees but most likely the neighbors mentioned in verse 8.

*Secondly, The action of taking the blind man to the Pharisees will cause trouble because there is already conflict between the Pharisees and Jesus.

Verse 14

And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

*Jesus not only showed His healing power but He also did it on the Sabbath. The division between the Pharisees and Jesus was mentioned and now Jesus has given them another reason to disagree with Him...He healed on the Sabbath!

*The blind man has yet to see Jesus physically after his healing but he has felt the touch of Jesus. Have you ever felt the touch of Jesus in your life? How would you respond if someone said 'How do you know Christianity is true?' Or 'Why do you believe Christianity is true?' Anyone can put you on the spot at any time. Are you ready to give a good answer when asked? Pastor Tom thinks this would be a good series to study sometime.

Verse 15

Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

*The Pharisees ask the same question that the neighbors did...How? meaning ...who did this for you? (The Pharisees were trying to get him to say Jesus' name so they could hold Jesus accountable for sinning on the Sabbath) But the man just replies 'He' because he really didn't know who it was (mostly because he couldn't see Jesus).

Verse 16

Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

*So the Pharisees, not getting a name out of the man, call whoever did this a sinner and not a man of God. They probably figured out it was Jesus. So they were actually saying that Jesus could not be the Son of God or even a man of God and that He was a sinner. The core of the division/conflict was determining who Jesus really is. Some of the Pharisees were jealous of Jesus' popularity and His claiming to be the Son of God. They were divided over this issue.

*Today we have many issues that divide us; politics, race equality, economy and the pandemic, just to name a few.

Verse 17

They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

*Even in his personal experience with Jesus, the blind man could not recognize who Jesus was (not physically or spiritually) when he called Him a prophet (and not the Son of God like the Pharisees were hoping he'd say)

*Looking back at the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20: 1 - 17

Verses 8 - 11

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

*Was there anything Jesus did that day to the blind man that was not holy according to this Scripture? Was there anything in the healing that was not holy? Is it wrong to do God's work on a Sunday? We anoint on Sunday and pray on Sunday? If someone is starving, can you cook for them on Sunday? See how easily you can take a verse out of the Bible and make it into a 'man-made' rule? Man-made: Do no work. God's rule: Keep it holy

*Everyone needs a day of rest to prevent burn-out, poor decisions, crankiness or even physically being sickened from being run-down. This is the reason God said you need to take a break one day a week to rest and worship.

Verse 18

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

*Because the Pharisees did not want to believe the man, they began to claim that he hadn't been blind in the first place. So they called up his mom and dad.

Verse 19

And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

*The Pharisees question the parents, insinuating that this was staged or a conspiracy.

Verse 20 and 21

His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: 21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

*The parents were not much help in discrediting Jesus because they only stated the facts that they knew: he is our son and he was born blind. They did not know: how he was healed or who healed him. But they confirmed that he was an adult and could speak for himself.

Verse 22

These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

*The parents answered by throwing back to their son because they were scared of the Pharisees. The Jewish leaders had already decided that if anyone thought that Jesus was the Christ (Messiah) then they would be kicked out of the synagogue.

[Pastor Jon's Bible had a footnote saying they would be put out of the synagogue and ostracized.] Basically, the parents threw their son under the bus, making him answer the question so that he would be kicked out and not them.

*If you are trying you are trying to be politically correct, then you may not be able to say the Truth from the Bible.

Pastor Tom gave the example of the bill coming up in Congress called the "Equity Act". It proposes that faith-based groups have to hire anyone regardless of their beliefs among other questionable practices.

Verse 23

Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

*Once again they respond out of fear and intimidation. And possibly disownership of their son.

Verses 24 and 25

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. 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.

*The young man answers that he doesn't know everything (like if he is a sinner or not...the theology end of it). But, he could witness to the ONE thing he does know: He was blind and now he can see.

*We can identify with this young man because we have been broken, sinful and now we know we are whole and saved. Pray that we can identify Jesus as our Healer and Savior and Lord.

Pastor Tom opened our phone lines for comments and final goodnights.

Goodnight, everybody!
