

4) Interrogation #4 ~ Pharisees & Blind Man (#2)

- A) The Pharisees, who clearly believe that Jesus is a sinner (9:24) insist that the man born blind "come clean" and tell them what really happened (9:26).
- B) The man born blind realizes that the entire interrogation with the Pharisees has been a farce, and begins to become increasingly more sarcastic (9:25, 27).
- C) The Pharisees become agitated at the man's story, insisting that they are the true disciples of Moses (=the Law), and that they are simply trying to figure out Jesus' source (9:28-29).
- D) Having nothing more to lose, the man born blind hammers the Pharisees with the truth of the situation and the obvious irony that they clearly stood against a man from God (9:30-33). Not surprisingly, the man gets thrown out of the synagogue, facing the punishment his parents feared (9:34).

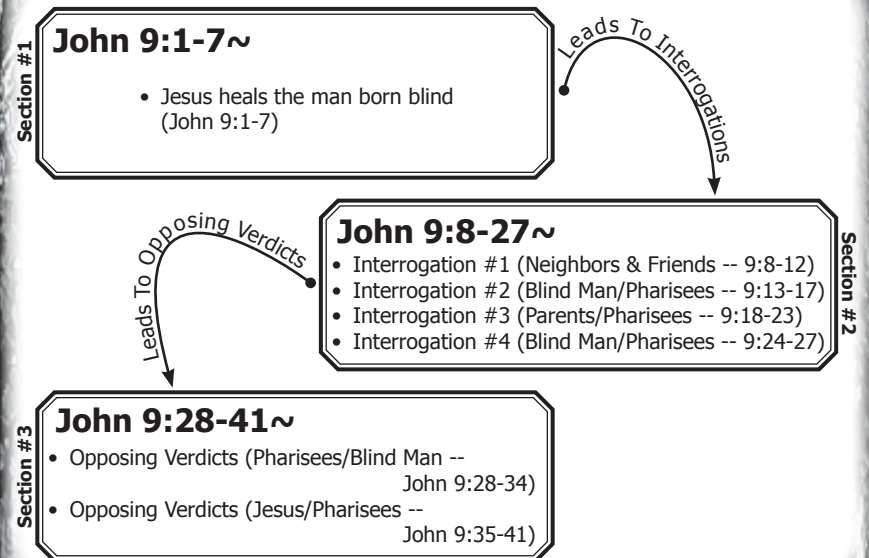
5) Opposing Verdicts

- A) Jesus, hearing about the man's dilemma, seeks him out and asks him if he "believes in the Son of Man" (9:35)? Confused, the man respectfully asks 'who is the Son of Man?' (9:36).
- B) Jesus reveals Himself to the man (9:37), and the man believes, confesses and worships Jesus (9:38).
- C) Jesus describes His purposes as "sight for the blind and blindness for those with sight" (9:39). The Pharisees who are near vividly illustrate Jesus' point (9:40-41).

Persecution by Prosecution

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 9th, 2005 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**AND JESUS SAID, "FOR JUDGMENT
I CAME INTO THIS WORLD, SO THAT
THOSE WHO DO NOT SEE MAY SEE,
AND THAT THOSE WHO SEE
MAY BECOME BLIND."
~ JOHN 9:39 (NASB)**



1) Interrogation #1 ~ Neighbors and Others

- A) When the blind man returns from Siloam, he immediately heads back to his home (John 9:8). He is recognized by his neighbors as being the blind man who used to beg.
- B) Others, who do not live as closely to the blind man's home, believe that the man they are seeing is simply someone who looks like the blind beggar (9:9). It was too remarkable for these "others" to believe that a man who was blind could now see (9:10).
- C) The blind man insists that he **really is** (emphasized) the beggar who was blind and now, because of Jesus, has been given sight (9:9-10). The "word-picture" is that the blind man is witnessing the argument over his identity while he animatedly insists that they should believe his testimony.
- D) The people, wanting to figure the situation out for themselves, want to see Jesus. The blind man though, doesn't know where to find Jesus (9:12).
- E) In subtle fashion, John shows us that despite his physical sight, the man born blind is still in darkness as to the "Light of the world" (9:5). There is more here to be discovered...

2) Interrogation #2 ~ Pharisees & Blind Man (#1)

- A) The neighbors and others are perplexed by the healing of the blind man, so they take the man to the Pharisees (9:13) to get their verdict on the situation. This was, no doubt, regular practice for all spiritually significant events (cf. John 3, Nicodemus & John 5, Bethesda healing).

- B) Once again, as in John 5:9bff (Bethesda healing and following explanation), the "offence" for the Pharisees is that Jesus has healed on the Sabbath (John 9:14).
- C) The man's explanation of how he was healed (9:15) causes a division amongst the Pharisees (9:16). In their frustration to ascertain Jesus Christ's "power source," they uncharacteristically ask the man born blind what he thinks of Jesus Christ (9:17).
- D) The healed man's verdict is said with 100% surety -- "He is a prophet" (9:17). This was probably the highest estimation of a man he could have, given his limited contact with Jesus.
- E) The Pharisees do not reject the man's testimony, but doubt the truth of his blindness from birth. They call for his parents to question them as to the authenticity of his blindness (9:18).

3) Interrogation #3 ~ Pharisees & Blind Man's Parents

- A) The parents are questioned (9:19), and affirm the man's blindness from birth (9:20), but resist commenting on how he has been healed (9:21) because they fear being banned* from the synagogue (9:22).
- B) The parents again (9:23) assert that their son was "of age" (at least 13-years old), and therefore old enough to give legal testimony. They depart as their son returns once again.

* Many commentators who have studied Jewish history strongly object to the idea that there were "excommunication" guidelines for those who professed to be followers of Jesus Christ. Most liberal commentators see this as an anachronistic addition from after the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. This estimation is certainly true in a global sense (there were no general rules against Christians which were universally held at such an early date), however, it does not preclude local authorities from asserting their guidelines on the situation, which is no doubt what we have in place in John 9. Obviously, there was some sort of strong opposition, because the man born blind is "put out" (John 9:34); and ultimately, Christ will be crucified (19:17-18).

Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) Have you ever had someone question your experience of being a believer in Jesus Christ? Has someone attempted to discount or diminish what you believe based on your experiences? Share some of these experiences with your small group.

- B) There is a progressive revelation of Jesus Christ in John 9. Identify the progression (John 9:11, 17, 22, 33, 35-57) and compare your own understanding (or others) to this progression. How does a person progress from one understanding to the next?

- C) The man who had been born blind responds to his healing very differently (John 9) than the man who was healed at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-17). One walks away healed, but in the dark. The other is healed, and is also saved. Why does one respond and the other doesn't?

- D) The man born blind responds to Jesus Christ and the first reaction to his salvation is to worship Jesus. How do you respond in worship to Jesus Christ? Is worship a regular part of your times with Jesus, or just on the weekends? How can worship become more of a part of your regular response to God?

- E) Have you ever felt like the man born blind in John 9:25? "I sure don't know everything, but I was blind and now I see -- THAT I KNOW!" Sometimes the greatest difficulty in our lives is standing up in front of strong opposition and stating what we have truly experienced, what we truly believe. Is there some area of your life where you need to stand up (despite not knowing all the answers) and represent Christ in a more pronounced fashion? Share with your group and ask for prayer and accountability! Be honest -- share openly!

Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) Have you ever had someone question your experience of being a believer in Jesus Christ? Has someone attempted to discount or diminish what you believe based on your experiences? Share some of these experiences with your small group.

- B) There is a progressive revelation of Jesus Christ in John 9. Identify the progression (John 9:11, 17, 22, 33, 35-57) and compare your own understanding (or others) to this progression. How does a person progress from one understanding to the next?

- C) The man who had been born blind responds to his healing very differently (John 9) than the man who was healed at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-17). One walks away healed, but in the dark. The other is healed, and is also saved. Why does one respond and the other doesn't?

- D) The man born blind responds to Jesus Christ and the first reaction to his salvation is to worship Jesus. How do you respond in worship to Jesus Christ? Is worship a regular part of your times with Jesus, or just on the weekends? How can worship become more of a part of your regular response to God?

- E) Have you ever felt like the man born blind in John 9:25? "I sure don't know everything, but I was blind and now I see -- THAT I KNOW!" Sometimes the greatest difficulty in our lives is standing up in front of strong opposition and stating what we have truly experienced, what we truly believe. Is there some area of your life where you need to stand up (despite not knowing all the answers) and represent Christ in a more pronounced fashion? Share with your group and ask for prayer and accountability! Be honest -- share openly!