



John 9:13-41, Lesson #29

Lesson by Gerald E. Cumby

Do we have traditions and pre-conceived ideas of spiritual things?

Where do we get these traditions and ideas?

Is it hard to break from the traditions/pre-conceived ideas?

Where and who should we go to...to know the truth?

John 9:13-23, "They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So, they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" ²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

Thoughts and Suggested Meanings of Today's Lesson:

- **Jesus could have done it on any day He chose. He chose the Sabbath to challenge the petty traditions of the religious leaders.**
The main thing to remember...Jesus did not weigh the day or the hour as to when to heal or enact the miracles he was doing. He was just open to meeting the needs of individual when it would glorify the Father God. No where in the Bible does it say that Jesus was performing to show His power and might for His (Jesus') glory. It was to give praise to the One who sent Him to make a way for sinners to be brought out of darkness into the light.
- **To the Pharisees, Jesus could not be from God because He did not line up with their traditions and prejudices.**
- **"The minority's (opposite of the Pharisees position) ask the simple question, 'How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?' This sounds**

much like Nicodemus's opening words to Jesus: "No one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him" (John 3:2)."

- ***The disagreement between the Pharisees and the others caused them to get the opinion of the man born blind regarding Jesus.***
- ***All the man knew about Jesus was His name (John 9:11).*** Here, the healed man proclaimed that Jesus was a **prophet**. He grew in his understanding and proclamation about Jesus.
- ***It was easier for the religious leaders to believe that the man was never really blind than to believe that Jesus healed the man.*** Aren't we guilty of the same? We try to explain miracles away...Even Christians do that!!
- ***The religious leaders asked the parents to verify that the man was truly born blind.*** The parents verified, "**this is our son, and that he was born blind.**"
- ***The parents could identify their son and that he was born blind. They would not speak to the question of how he was healed because of the threat of excommunication (the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue).***
- ***The parents were so frightened by the threat of excommunication that they did all they could to put the attention back upon their son and away from them.***

John 9:24-25, "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."

- This command to the healed man may be an admonition to tell the truth, or it may be a command to deny any credit to Jesus in the healing.
- **"We know this Man is a sinner"**: They said this because they had already made up their minds that He was not the Messiah, was blasphemous (from God, God's Son). He could not be from God because He was going against their long-held traditions.
- ***The man born blind didn't know everything about Jesus, but he did know how Jesus had touched his life.*** At that moment, it was an irrefutable argument. They could not argue against what Jesus did in this man's life.

"They take their stand on their preconceived ideas...he on the simple facts that he knows" (Morris)

John 9:26-34, "Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He

listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

- The tone of the Pharisees implies a harsh, intense interrogation of the now healed blind man. They demanded answers from this man who now could see.
- ***The man born blind showed profound wisdom as he answered more on the offense than on defense.*** If they kept asking the same question, they would keep hearing the same answer.

What the Pharisees did not realize is that reality (the living truth and proof) and forced and contrived answers do not mix.

- Intending to or not, the healed man mocked both their prejudiced rejection of Jesus and proclaimed himself to be a disciple of Jesus (**do you also**).

“It was if he told the religious leaders, ‘Your unbelief and ignorance in the face of the evidence is more of a miracle than my cure. You, the religious experts, cannot work out a simple thing like this?’” (Morris)

- As a well-brought-up Jew the man understands that a miracle wrought in answer to prayer is proof that its worker is on God’s side and is one of God’s own. Prophet or, in this case, the Son of the Most High God.
- These religious leaders *despised* the common people, and this man in particular. They were especially angry because *he was right and they were wrong*,
- ***The excommunication of the blind man – difficult as it was – turned out to be a good thing, because he would in short time be reconnected to Jesus. Physical healing took place...now, Jesus would heal him spiritually.***

John 9:35-41, “Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” ⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

- *The religious leaders rejected the man whom Jesus healed. Jesus then made it a point to meet him and receive him. It hurts to be rejected by others, but God has consolation for us in Jesus Christ.*
- *Jesus called on the healed man to fully believe, and he did (**Lord, I believe**). When the healed man declared his loyalty to Jesus by not denying Him before the hostile religious leaders, he was rewarded when Jesus revealed more of Himself to him.*

- Jesus dealt with this man differently than most. He met his physical need first, then allowed him to endure persecution, then called him to a specific belief. It's good to remember that God may work differently in different lives.

The religious leaders said, "You can't worship with us at the temple." Jesus said, "I will receive your worship."

"That those who do not see may see":

- ✓ Those who admit their spiritual blindness can find sight in Jesus.
- ✓ Jesus used blindness in a spiritual, metaphorical sense – of those who cannot see the light and truth of God, they have put themselves in a state of blindness to the truth of God's Word.

NOTE: We never know the name of this man born blind. Jesus is the important One; a true disciple is content to remain anonymous if his Lord gets the glory.

This healed blind man showed an increasing awareness of Jesus. Here is how he reacted according to Scripture:

- Jesus is a man (John 9:11).
- Jesus is a prophet (John 9:17).
- Jesus is my master, I am His disciple (John 9:27).
- Jesus is from God (John 9:33).
- Jesus is the Son of God (John 9:35-38).
- Jesus is who I trust (John 9:38).
- Jesus is who I worship (John 9:38).

Our Awareness of Jesus' Presence and Workings in Our Lives SHOULD cause a desire for us to have a closer walk with Him every day!



Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before.

Every day with Jesus, I love Him more and more.

Jesus saves and keeps me...and He is the one I'm living for.

Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before.

