

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #161

## The Pharisees Question the Healed Man

John 9.13-17

13 They brought the man who was formerly blind to the Pharisees. 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 continue to see."

16 Some of the Pharisees were saying, "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 said, "He is a prophet."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Streets of Jerusalem
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	B. Jesus' Ministry at the Feast of Tabernacles
	4. Jesus is the Light of the Blind"
Title	iii. The Pharisees Question the Healed Man

### COMMENT:

We have seen that this Chapter makes incisive use of irony. John wields this literary tool it more than any other Bible author. The interchange between the various characters in Chapter Nine is a leading example of John's skillful use of irony. Play close attention to it as we make our way through this Chapter over the next four readings.

Of the various characters in this chapter, the Pharisees were the prime example of the spiritual blindness that affects us all. They repeatedly asked Jesus for a sign to prove that he was the Messiah. He gave it to them by "lighting" the eyes of a man born blind. They carefully examined the overwhelming evidence that a miracle had occurred, and stubbornly refused to receive any spiritual light from it whatsoever, all the while claiming to be the proud protectors of Divine truth. Their utter foolishness makes terrific comedy, but it is an expression of tragic darkness and blindness.

In today's reading the Pharisees examine the testimony of the healed man for the first time. Like the healing of the paralyzed man in Chapter Five, Jesus healed the blind man on a Sabbath--the final day of the Feast. The fact that Jesus performed a compassionate miracle to make a person whole on a Sabbath was a message in itself. He was doing what only God can do. This was the crux of the problem for the Pharisees.

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We also see in this text that the healed man had moved along in his knowledge of Jesus to the point of recognizing that he had to be a prophet at the least. The formerly blind man was open to the significance of his healing. He was seeing the light of Jesus' revelation. The Pharisees, who claimed to know God intimately through his Word--to possess spiritual sight--were blind to Jesus' revelation. The irony had begun.

### APPLICATION:

One of the characteristics of our spiritual blindness is that what is perfectly obvious to others is invisible to us. The Pharisees were convinced they were right; any objective observer can see otherwise. We are all blind about ourselves in some way.

*Only Jesus can deliver us from our own blindness. We need to ask him to do that every day we live. When will you ask him today?*