

## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #162

### The Pharisees Question the Healed Man's Parents

John 9:18-23

18 The Pharisees 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 is now seeing?"

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 fearful of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who confessed that Jesus was the Messiah would be excommunicated from the synagogue. 23 That was the reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

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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	iv. The Pharisees Question the Healed Man's Parents

#### COMMENT:

John's illustration of spiritual blindness continues in today's reading. The healed blind man had just testified to Jesus' miraculous gift of sight to him. The Pharisees turned a blind eye to it. They went to his parents next in an attempt to confirm their own presupposition that Jesus was a fraud.

Normally, the parents of a son that had been born blind, and then received an instantaneous healing would be overjoyed! They would sing the praises of the giver of sight. However, these parents could see that the Pharisees had an agenda. The leaders were not interested in discovering the truth; they merely wanted to confirm their own beliefs, and they were more than willing to use bullying tactics to do so. The parents were therefore afraid to speak the truth.

The Pharisee's interview of the healed man's parents failed to yield the answer they were seeking, so they ignored the evidence and plunged on in their blind pursuit of an alternative explanation for the healing. An "alternative explanation" for the truth is a lie. There is just no way around it.

#### APPLICATION:

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An open minded, objective attitude in seeking information from others will go a long way in obtaining it. On the other hand, using our power to coerce others into telling us what we want to hear will usually keep us in the dark regarding the truth. The Pharisees give us bad example of abusing their power as leaders that we do not want to emulate.

The Pharisee's behavior in this scene is almost comical. This is true, but it is missing the point. John described the Pharisee's process of examining the evidence and rejecting every shred of truth about Jesus because it is what we ALL do. We have the same sinful nature. We are blind in ourselves. Only Jesus is the Light, and it is only by staying in tight fellowship with him that he can continue to light our blind eyes.

Jesus does not permanently heal our spiritual eyes as he healed this man's eyes. Rather, he abides with us as our source of light/sight. As we move away from Jesus we move away from his light-giving presence. We can "see" to the degree that we are connected to, and properly aligned with Jesus, who alone is the Light of the World.

We are also reminded that fear of the consequences of embracing the truth is a powerful blinding force. The parents show us this. Our sinful tendency to resist change, and protect ourselves from uncertainty and perceived loss or inconvenience is as old as the human race. However, all growth and learning is a form of change! It is impossible to follow Jesus and live in fear of change.

*What fears tend to bind you in blindness?*

*How "tight" are you with Jesus today?*

*What do you need to do to stay focused on him more?*