

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #163

The Pharisees Question the Healed Man a Second Time

John 9.24-34

24 They summoned the man who had been blind for the second time. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

25 He replied, "I do not know if he is a sinner or not. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

26 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 reviled him, saying, "You are that fellow's disciple! But we are disciples of Moses! 29 We know for sure that God spoke decisively to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he is from."

30 The man answered, "Now this is truly remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We do know that God does not make a practice of listening 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 permanently blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

34 To this they replied, "You were wholly in the grip of sin from your birth; how dare you lecture us!"

And they threw him out of the synagogue.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. 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	v. The Pharisees Question the Healed Man Again

COMMENT:

Irony reaches a peak in this second conversation between the healed man and the Pharisees. The Pharisees remained blind to the truth. They refused to give the facts of the healing any real consideration. The formerly blind man, on the other hand, saw not only with his new healed eyes, but also with his understanding. The facts about Jesus led naturally into faith in him, for Jesus is the light of the blind world.

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This passage is so rich. Re-read it and savor the salient expressions made by the healed man. Consider each of the Pharisee's statements, and how ridiculous they are. For example, they start by saying, "Give glory to God!" That is exactly what the healed man was trying to do, by honoring Jesus. Remember, Jesus had just been speaking in the Temple in Chapter Eight about revealing his Father's glory (8.49-50, 54).

The Pharisees were utterly blind to the light of God's glory shining onto them through this very healing miracle, as they told the healed man to give glory to God!

John's brilliant narrative speaks for itself. Let it speak to you.

APPLICATION:

Justice is supposed to be blind to anything but the truth, and the facts. In reality, because sinful people render judgements, decisions often express blindness to the truth. The Pharisees caricature this perfectly.

In seeing their blindness we must also embrace our own inability to see ourselves, or the truth accurately. Jesus alone is the light of the world. Apart from him we are all born blind, and stay blind.

People who know they cannot see are humble. They recognize their dependance upon others. People who are not aware of their own spiritual blindness see no need to rely upon Jesus, or anybody else.

Pride is a sure sign of spiritual blindness.

How do you struggle with pride? How can your recognition of pride enable you to become aware of spiritual blindness?