

The Man Born Blind

I. The problem with honoring God. The world, all in it and its systems will be against you. Yet there is a promise of blessings if you endure the persecution you will receive from others because of your righteousness.

(NKJV) Mt 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A. To be a Christian is a difficult job.

(NKJV) Mt 10:32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. 34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. 40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

B. Many will leave you! Even Jesus disciples left him.

(NKJV) Jn 6:66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

C. The biggest problem will come from the government.

(NKJV) Jn 7:32 The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him.

1. This is because the government, those in authority to govern, want to govern and reject the government of God.
2. The government will tell you not to bring God into its decision-making processes.

3. The government will turn people against those who need the power of God activated in their life and keep the people in darkness.
 4. It was the government that had him killed.
 5. If you are doing the works of God you will have opposition.
- D. The government opposition
1. Pharisees
 2. Sadducees
 3. Essenes
 4. The Romans

II. The Healing of The Blind Man

- A. Jesus had healed blind people before

(NKJV) Mt 9:27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!” **28** And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” **29** Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” **30** And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” **31** But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

- B. What was different was that this man was born blind!
- C. First of all we see the disciples were not interested in healing him. They were interested in a theological discussion. So often religious people lose sight of the purpose of the gospel is to improve the lives of human beings.

(NKJV) Jn 9:1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. **2** And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **3** Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. **4** I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

1. He had said this before.

(NKJV) Jn 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

- D. The test of the blind man's faith

(NKJV) Jn 9:6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. **7** And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

1. Notice, Jesus did not say the man would be healed. He just gave the man a command.

- a. How many of us are missing blessings because we do not obey the commands that God has given us?

The song:

Trust and Obey

**When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.**

Refrain:

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

**Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.**

**Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.**

**But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.**

**Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.**

2. This man had to walk some distance to get to the pool of Siloam.
 - a. What if he had removed the dirt from his eyes by rubbing them?
 - b. What if he had not gone all the way?
3. Sometimes it makes no sense but it is always better to trust and obey
4. Do you think this man had any idea that he was going to be able to see?

- a. Surely this would be thought impossible!
- E. The unbelievable act. Four groups responded
 - 1. the neighbors
 - 2. the leaders
 - 3. the parents
 - 4. the man himself

(NKJV) Jn 9:8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" 9 Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." 10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

- F. The thing Jesus did make no sense to them. They were looking for an explanation. To the blind man it didn't matter. All that mattered to him was that he could see!

(NKJV) Jn 9:11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

- 1. This was just a simple statement!
 - a. how often we are looking for reasons and ways to believe that we can be healed.
 - b. We are searching for ways that God is going to do something for us.
 - c. Again, all we have to do's trust and obey.
- 2. Also note this man didn't even know Jesus! Nevertheless, he did what he was told to do. So very often it is the common person that receives the very best blessings from God because they do not analyze what God is doing.

- G. They ask of him

(NKJV) Jn 9:12 Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

- 1. What a dumb question! How would he know? He was blind when he last saw Jesus.

- H. Now he goes to the governing officials. They want to see what the authorities will say. Why do we put so much faith in our government and very little in our God. Most often, many people choose to believe government over God!

(NKJV) Jn 9:13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

- I. Now the government is going to get upset. He violated their law. They don't want to believe.

(NKJV) Jn 9:16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.”

Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.

1. The last sentence sounds like a man we heard earlier:

(NKJV) Jn 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

2. This is the reason we must always make sure we have honest and godly people in government. They can do so much to help the spread of the gospel or they can do so much to bring damage to the gospel!
3. the situation with Peter and the apostles

(NKJV) Ac 5:26 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. **27** And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, **28** saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!”

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. **30** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. **31** Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

33 When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.

34 Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while. **35** And he said to them: “Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. **36** For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing.

37 After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. 38 And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; 39 but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.”

40 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

J. Now again they question the man born blind. They are mad that this has happened.

(NKJV) Jn 9:17 They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

1. This tick them off even more so!
2. If Jesus was a Prophet, he would have authority above their authority. Government submits to no authority above its authority without force!
3. They would rather reject the healing than to accept someone greater than them.

K. Now the religious leaders look for an excuse to believe that this did not happen. They want to reject the possibility that it could have happened.

Surely, this man was not born blind! So they call for his parents

(NKJV) Jn 9:18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.”

22 His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

L. In their biased narrowmindedness, Jesus had violated the commandment they had regarding the Sabbath. He must therefore be a sinner. The

government wants everybody to be in agreement with it. Even when it is wrong!

Notice how they now put words in the man's mouth!

(NKJV) Jn 9:24 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."

- M. Will the man take the bait? He is however smarter than them. He will not lie. Oh how I wish we had more Christians who were willing to stand for the word of God!

(NKJV) Jn 9:25 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."

- 1. A very powerful statement!
- N. Now they argue with the blind man who really doesn't give a flip about their argument of him being healed on the Sabbath against their law.
 - 1. actually, government rarely cares about its people when there is no God in the administration.

(NKJV) Jn 9:26 Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

- 2. Uh Oh he is about to get his head chopped off!
- O. He has the nerve to talk to religious leaders like this? Surely he doesn't even have an education! This dude is been blind all his life, what does he know?

(NKJV) Jn 9:28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

- 1. They are the smart people!
- P. Now, we shall see how smart the dumb people are. He is probably a little ticked also. All he's concerned about is that he can see and these dummies by making a big deal about law.

(NKJV) Jn 9:30 The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! 31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. 32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. 33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

1. his argument is true and they know it. Scripture clearly states God does not hear the voice of sinners. The only word he hears from a sinner is the request for forgiveness.

(NKJV) Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

(NKJV) Pr 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

(NKJV) Is 1:15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

- Q. Now they are fighting mad! Governing authorities want no one to challenge their authority! Therefore, they attacked the man. This is like we see today. There are so many attacks on people's character when they do not have a good argument for the truth.

(NKJV) Jn 9:34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

- R. The government may have rejected him but Christ accepts him! Notice, that Jesus goes looking for the man.

(NKJV) Jn 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

1. Is necessary for the man himself to believe in Jesus now.

- S. the blind man obviously did not know who he was talking to

(NKJV) Jn 9:36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

- T. Jesus responds:

(NKJV) Jn 9:37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

- U. The blind man could not be sure. Perhaps he recognized him by his voice. But when Jesus said it was him the man immediately worshiped him.

- V. look at how the man had faith that grew as they challenged him.

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And finally

(NKJV) Jn 9:38 Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

W. Jesus now comments on the religious leaders:

(NKJV) Jn 9:39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.

- X. So often it is the people in authority they cannot except the words of God because God challenges their authority.
- Y. we have been blessed in this nation that we can choose who will be the authority. If we get the wrong people in office they will make our lives miserable and encourage us to not accept the message of our Lord and our God.
- Z. It is time the church arose and preached the gospel. Government is not our solution