

“The Challenge of Unbelief” John 9:13-34

I. *Brought to the Pharisees, religious authorities, but Jesus’ enemies -*

¹³ They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. John 9:13 (NKJV)

1. *Who were the Pharisees?*

- A. *They were conservative, Bible-believing among the religious Jews of Jesus’ day.*
- B. *They differed from Jesus in their view of the LAW, they thought they were strict keepers of it. They thought Jesus to be lax because of His grace toward sinners.*
- C. *They wrongly thought themselves keepers of the law when they only kept it outwardly, **Matthew 23:1-36. They NEEDED His salvation as much as anyone else does!***

2. *They were not the only ones against Jesus, the Sadducees were also against Jesus, who were they?*

- A. *Liberal, in the sense that they denied the resurrection and the supernatural.*
- B. *They were practical atheists, RINOs, religious in name only!*
- C. *They typically bought religious positions with money.*

3. *The neighbors of the healed man born blind bring him to Pharisees probably because they are the authorities most available.*

II. *He (Jesus) healed on the sabbath again, this meant trouble, at least from some -*

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.” 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. John 9:14-16 (NKJV)

1. *Was it lawful labor on the sabbath to heal a man born blind?*

³ And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, **“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”** ⁴ But they kept silent. And He took *him* and healed him, and let him go. ⁵ Then He answered them, saying, **“Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?”** ⁶ And they could not answer Him regarding these things. Luke 14:3–6 (NKJV)

2. *Some, even among the Pharisees were believing in Jesus –* Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. John 9:14-16 (NKJV)

III. *The disputing pharisees temporarily make the healed blind man a sort of referee, but quickly question his qualifications, was he ever really blind?*

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.” 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. John 9:17-18 (NKJV)

Note, how the evil, unbelievers among the Pharisees seem to win the day:

1. *By making this man a temporary referee between themselves and the Pharisees who may believe.*
2. *By questioning the truth of his ever being blind in the first place, as if Jesus and this man planned some kind of SCAM!*
3. *Jesus' enemies among the Pharisees seem more numerous and vocal (louder) than his friends from this same group.*

IV. *The healed blind man's parents confirm him as their son and that he was born blind, but won't acknowledge Jesus -*

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." John 9:19-23 (NKJV)

1. *Parents confirm, this is our son, yes, he was born blind.*
2. *Parents are afraid to confess Christ. They are afraid of excommunication.*
3. *See how FEAR of ungodly authorities seems to rule the day, the parents are afraid to speak for Christ, for fear of excommunication.*

V. *At this point the vicious Pharisees will accept only one VERDICT for Jesus*

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." 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." John 9:25-26 (NKJV)

1. *Note the anti-Christ Pharisees are bold and loud!*
2. *The pro-Christ Pharisees are silent!*
3. *Yet, the healed blind man is not afraid. He speaks what he KNOWS, is he "tried" by the Pharisees? Yes, maybe, but in his EYES now this trial does not match what he has already gone through being BLIND all his life!*

VI. *A man miraculously healed from being blind from birth is not going to fall for the lies of false teachers, no matter how much AUTHORITY they might claim for themselves -*

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?" 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." 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." ³⁴ They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. John 9:26-34 (NKJV)

1. Consider their interrogation? Their lies! Picture it like this ... they are like those who shine lights in his eyes ...

But, He is loving it!

:26 What did He do/

:27 I already told you! Do you want to be His disciples too? *Already an evangelist!*

:28 They claim to be Moses' disciples, they were NOT!

:29 notice the word "fellow" it is in italics, meaning it is NOT part of the Greek Text, so the wording is about Christ

as for this _____, we do not know where He is from

This is such a derogatory, hateful, nasty way to speak about Jesus Christ, as if He is not even human!

When they say they don't know where He is from it is as if they are hinting, he might be DEMON INCARNATE

This is often done when people have no argument or evidence, they resort to throwing mud and blood....

THIS _____ This thing ... this we can't say. THIS _____ they are saying they CANNOT say or think of a word BAD or evil enough to describe Christ!

2. He is laughing at them –

⁰ 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!

A. What he is calling marvelous is their BLIND IGNORANCE!

B. What is unbelievable to the ex-blindman is that these so-called "authorities" cannot see the Greatness of the miracle which Christ did –

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."

- Who knows the most about incurable illnesses?
- Some people will say, doctors ...
- However, if they cannot cure it, do they really know much?
- Who else knows anything about illness, especially LONG TERM ILLNESS? The patient KNOWS! They will study, they will seek a cure...

This man KNEW certain things and he was right! Once he was blind, and everyone else could see! Now, he can see, and everyone else is blind.

3. *They cannot believe he is teaching them?*

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

What is right? What is wrong?

A. *They are right, he was born in sins.*

B. *They are wrong assuming they, themselves, were not born in sin!*

²³ **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (NKJV)**

C. *They were right, he was teaching him.*

D. *They were wrong thinking he could not teach them!*

E. *They were wrong to cast him out!*

F. *They were wrong to think they had any real power to cast him out!*

VII. *Application –*

1. *We all go through TRIALS –*

⁷ **Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward. Job 5:7 (NKJV)**

2. *Blindness is a terrible trial, yet Jesus Christ heals the blind –*

“To God Be the Glory” “Blessed Assurance” two of some 8,000 hymns that Fanny Crosby wrote, she was either born blind or lost her sight at six weeks old.

3. *If God does not miraculously heal, God helps us overcome! Paul’s thorn in the flesh was such a trial for the Apostle Paul –*

⁷ **And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.**

⁸ **Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”**

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (NKJV)

4. *For this man, the trial of the Pharisees, their excommunicating him, seem nothing as he had already been healed from a greater trial, blindness, helplessness, begging!*

5. *We all were born-blind spiritually. If we see God’s Kingdom now, if we know Christ, if our eyes are being enlightened, we are like the BLIND-man already saved from a dread-ill!*

6. *If we’ve seen Christ and know God and His kingdom, the blind men and women of this world cannot convince us He does not exist.*

7. *If we’ve seen Christ and know God and His kingdom, we know that nothing the ungodly blindmen of the world can do to us can keep us from God or Heaven!*