

A BLIND MAN WHO COULD SEE

(John 9:1-41)

- Introduction:
1. Sight allows one to perceive physical things as well as spiritual things.
 2. It is sometimes the case that those who can see (*physically*) cannot see (*spiritually*) [Matthew 13:14-15].
 3. In John 9, a blind man was able to see far better and more clearly than those who had sight.
 4. Let's examine this passage, and make some applications.

I. NOT ALL SUFFERING IS THE RESULT OF SIN

- A. (John 9:1-3).
- B. The disciples evidently thought that suffering was directly attributable to a person's sins or his parent's sins.
- C. (Job 4:7-8).
- D. Jesus said that this situation was not because of sin, but so that God could be glorified.
 1. The result of this adversity was that a man was saved, and others were provided an opportunity to witness the glory and power of God.
- E. But how could a good God use a person in such a way?
 1. We need to ascertain what is truly good and evil.
 2. Can we declare that what brings one closer to God is evil?
 3. Who would dare say that this man's blindness was evil when it brought about the remission of his sins?
 4. Not all suffering is evil (Psalms 119:71).

II. NOT ALL PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED

- A. (John 9:31).
- B. I believe that this passage has often been misused.
 1. Though a proper conclusion is reached, the passage does not prove the conclusion is true.
- C. We must remember that this is an uninspired man speaking.
 1. The only way we can know what he said was truth is by comparing it to inspired teachings elsewhere.
 2. This same passage has the disciples declaring that this man was handicapped because of sins.
 3. And the Pharisees declared that Jesus sinned by breaking the Sabbath.
- D. It just so happens that this statement is true.
 1. (Psalms 34:15-16).
 2. (Psalms 66:18).
 3. (Proverbs 15:29).

III. THREE DIFFERING ATTITUDES TOWARD CHRIST

- A. The class represented by the Pharisees.
 - 1. They saw and heard the testimony of the miracle, but refused to accept Christ.
 - 2. Their minds were closed and they cast the man out of the synagogue and accused Christ of sin.
 - 3. How many are willing to weigh evidence contrary to an accepted belief?
 - 4. How many are willing to change if they are shown to be wrong?
- B. The class represented by the blind man's parents.
 - 1. (John 9:19-23).
 - 2. They wanted to remain neutral because they were afraid of the consequences of getting involved with Jesus.
 - 3. (Matthew 12:30).
 - 4. Some today are nominal Christians who no intention of really getting involved.
- C. The class represented by the blind man.
 - 1. He shared with others with Jesus had done for him (9:11).
 - 2. He boldly affirmed that Jesus was a prophet of God (9:17).
 - 3. He was not afraid of what his fellow man would think (9:30-35).
 - 4. He suffered the consequences of his convictions, but also enjoyed the reward of his convictions.

- Conclusion:
- 1. As we close this lesson, I would like to ask you into what class of people do you most naturally fit?
 - 2. Now is a good time to evaluate yourself, and make changes if any need to be made.