

Jesus, the Light of the World (*Part 3*)

John 9:24-34

Thought for the Day. Jesus came into the spiritual darkness and blindness of this world to open our spiritual eyes so that we might see Him for who He is and accept Him as the Savior of our soul and the Lord of our life.

Jesus declared Himself to be the Light of the world. He came to planet earth in order to bring spiritual light into the darkness of this world caused by sin. He came to deliver us from our sins and our spiritual blindness, and to show us the way to God. And to prove His claim, He healed a man who had been born blind. He performed a physical miracle to illustrate a spiritual truth, that He is the Light of the world.

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."

- "Give glory to God" – They placed the man under oath.
- The Pharisees had made up their minds concerning Jesus, and nothing was going to persuade them otherwise!
- They had determined to excommunicate anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah (vs. 22).

25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

- To his credit, the man did not back down or change his story. He stuck to the facts.
- "The Pharisees met failure at every turn. Every time they tried to discredit the Lord Jesus, it resulted in bringing more honor to Him. The man's testimony here was beautiful. He did not know too much about the Person of Jesus, but he did know that though once he was blind, now he saw. This was a testimony that no one could deny. So it is in the case of those who have been born again. The world may doubt, scoff, and sneer, but no one can deny our testimony when we say that once we were lost, and now we have been saved by the grace of God." (*MacDonald, p. 2144*)

26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

- The man boldly put his finger on the reality—they did not want to hear the truth!
- He dared to identify the "elephant in the room": He knew very well that they hated Jesus and were seeking to kill Him.

28 And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses."

- Earlier, the Pharisees had claimed to be children of Abraham (8:33) and children of God (8:41). Now, they are claiming to be disciples of Moses—none of which they were!
- "It has been said, 'When you have no case, abuse the plaintiff.' That is what happened here. The Pharisees had utterly failed to shake the testimony of this man, so they began to abuse him. They accused him of being a disciple of Jesus, as if that were the worst

thing in the world! Then they professed to be Moses' disciples, as if that were the greatest thing possible." (*MacDonald, p. 2144*)

29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

- They knew who Jesus claimed to be and they knew that He claimed to come from heaven. They refused to acknowledge the truth concerning Him.
- Though they claimed to be disciples of Moses, they refused to believe the message of Moses. (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19)
 - Jesus was the Prophet predicted by Moses!
 - If the Pharisees were truly Moses' disciples, they would have accepted Jesus' message and received Him as their Lord and Savior.

30 The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes."

- Moses had never healed a blind man; it was obvious to anyone with eyes to see that One greater than Moses was in their midst.
- Yet, the Pharisees refused to see what a blind man was able to see. The more clearly he saw who Jesus was, the more blind they became!

31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.

- His faith progresses even farther, and he begins to teach the Pharisees some theology!
- He becomes a fearless witness for Jesus.
- You can almost hear him saying, "C'mon guys! You're the spiritual leaders of Israel and you don't know who this guy is? What's wrong with you!"

32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

- "This man realized that he was the first man in all of human history who had been born blind and who had received his sight. He could not understand that the Pharisees should witness such a miracle and find fault with the Person who performed it. If the Lord Jesus were not from God, He could never do a miracle of this nature." (*MacDonald, p. 2145*)

34 They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

- In their arrogance and self-righteousness, they insinuated that the man's blindness was the result of sin, and they expelled him from the temple and from the Jewish religion.
- "What right had he to be teaching them? The truth is that he had every right in the world, for, as Ryle has said, 'The teaching of the Holy Ghost is more frequently to be seen among men of low degree than among men of rank and education.' When it says they cast him out, this probably refers to more than his being cast out of the temple. It probably means that he was excommunicated from the Jewish religion. And yet what was the ground for the excommunication? A man born blind had been given his sight on the Sabbath. Because he would not speak evil of the One who had performed the miracle, he was excommunicated." (*MacDonald, p. 2145*)
- Are you prepared to take a bold stand for Jesus Christ in the face of intolerance, abuse, rejection, and possibly even persecution? (Mark 8:38)