

(8) The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.”

(10) So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

(13) They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

(18) The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore, his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

(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.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 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?”

(28) And they reviled him, saying, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but, as for this man, we do not know where He comes from.” The man answered, “Why this is an amazing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. 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. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

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

Think on these things:

- 1) The healing of the blind man was so startling that many people who had seen him day-in and day-out for YEARS were unwilling to say he was the same man. What did the blind man tell them in v.9?

While they debated, “Is it him?”, the healed blind man declared, “I am the man!”

- 2) Did the blind man know that it was Jesus who healed him (see v.11)? **Yes**

- 3) The Pharisees tried to dismiss Jesus as a “sinner” (v.25). They said He didn’t keep (i.e., honor and regard as holy) the Sabbath day (v.13), and that they (the Pharisees) didn’t know where He came from (v.29). The blind man’s response was perfect, “Why, *this* is an amazing thing!” The Pharisees were divided in their opinion of Jesus (v.16). What confused them (and the crowd, see vs. 16, 31)? What was unique about the miraculous healing (v.32)?

Confusing? **Some decided that by ‘healing’ on the Sabbath Day, Jesus dishonored God as a sinner by ‘working’ and not keeping this day “holy.” But others surmised, “How can a man who is a sinner do such things?” In v.31 the blind man states, “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.”**

Unique? **No one had ever heard of a ‘human born blind’ being healed of his/her blindness. Clearly, God was at work through Jesus.**

- 4) Instead of elation for the healing of their son, what emotions did the parents show, and why (v.22)?

They were afraid because the Pharisees had informed everyone in Jerusalem that if anyone acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, s/he would be “put out” (excommunicate) from the synagogue.

- 5) The parents feared being “put out of the synagogue” (v.22). A modern religious word for this action is “excommunicated.” What does this really mean? Let’s look at 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 9-13; 2 Corinthians 2:1-11; and Galatians 6:1-5.

Excommunication explained (1 Cor. 5:9-13) – **Don’t associate with “brothers” who are guilty of immorality, greed, idolatry, bad-mouthing others, drunkenness or swindling. Do not even eat meals with them. Such “believers” are to be PURGED from the congregation. Bottom line is that they are to be kicked out of the fellowship and shunned from social activities.**

Is it forever? (2 Cor. 2:1-11) – **Paul acknowledges that such actions hurt everyone, including those who do the shunning. When “repentance” is eventually present, we are to show both love and forgiveness in welcoming them back so that the shunned party isn’t overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.**

Elders’ duties? (Gal. 6:1-5) – **Church leaders have a duty and obligation to address sin among the Body of Christ (in their church), taking aside the sinner. However, instead of “gotcha”, the attitude is to be one of restoring the failing one gently, as watching over the souls entrusted to their care, and bearing one another’s burdens. Deal with it, but with a spirit of restoration!**

- 6) V.27 is very relevant to us today. As Christians we want to share God’s truth and our experiences of following Jesus Christ, but rejection can exasperate us. We understand the blind man’s insight, “I told you, but you’re not listening. What do you want to hear?” Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5 and 4:1-4 and write down the kind of hearers in our world today.

People today are rejecting God’s truth to find and listen only to speakers saying what they want to hear (i.e., teachers confirming ‘my’ truth as I believe). They seek validation for life views they’ve formed apart from God’s Word.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: