

# The Investigation

## (A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #35)

John 9:13-34

### THE LEADERS' SUSPICIOUS QUESTIONS (9:13-17)

#### A. Two red flags go up immediately:

1. Why do they bring him to the Pharisees and why would Jesus choose to do this on Sabbath?
2. John is pressing the issue: *"Who else's eyes will/should/need to be opened?"*

#### B. Notice how this man "protects/promotes" his benefactor/healer (9:15)

1. Truth telling is expected from all Christ-followers
2. Washed in the *"pool of the sent one,"* he speaks as one filled with the Spirit

#### C. 9:16 - The Serious have become seriously divided over this issue:

1. Some maintain Jesus is obviously not a man of God; others wonder how someone who helps others could be a (gross) sinner...
2. What is really important? We major in minors; we justify our conviction and compromise our witness in the world

#### D. 9:17 - *"But who do you say he is?" "He is a prophet"*

1. A prophet is one whom God has chosen to say or do God's will in the world
2. Blind man wonders: Does this miracle matter to them? Do I? Does Jesus?

### THE QUESTIONED PARENTS (9:18-23)

#### A. They summon his parents; but they cop out fearing the consequences

1. John highlights the contrast: hesitant parents vs. a bold truth-telling son

[Jesus] *"So everyone who speaks up for me before others, I also will speak up for them before my Father in heaven."* (Matthew 10:32)

2. It's not as easy a decision as it appears; it might get them/us shunned

#### B. Who is really blind in this story?

### THE LEADERS' HOSTILE QUESTIONS (9:24-34)

#### A. They bring the blind man back - not to question him but to threaten him

1. Giving glory to God and their strongly held convictions are so interwoven they believe anyone disagreeing with them is dishonoring God
2. John is asking us to be clear about the essentials and to remain teachable

#### B. 9:25 - A person with an argument is no match for a person with experience

1. The serious have brought their argument (*"We know he is a sinner"*); the blind man brings his experience (*"I am a blind man, but now I see!"*)

2. We don't need to engage the arguments to witness for Jesus; we simply need to have experienced his impact on our life; i.e., we need to have been to the *"pool of the sent one"* and walked away seeing

#### C. 9:28-29 - The Serious' response is to vilify the blind man:

1. This man is on his way to becoming a fully devoted disciple of Jesus

[Jesus] *"Whoever lives by the truth comes into the Light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God."* (John 3:21)

[Jesus] *"Every single individual whose life is rooted in the truth, listens to my voice"* (John 18:37)

2. By contrast, they claim they *"don't know where [Jesus] comes from"*

- a. They think their assertion to this uneducated blind man that they don't know where his healer comes from will be enough to discredit Jesus
- b. But their declaration of ignorance undermines their legitimacy
- c. They've missed the whole point of Scripture, of the eight preceding chapters of Messianic witness and signs, and especially Jesus' recent teaching during the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7-8)

3. Believing where Jesus comes from, where he is going; and all that he has said and done in between is the essence of knowing who Jesus is

#### D. 9:30-33 - The man gives the Serious a free theology and history lesson

1. **The Theology lesson:** *"We know that God doesn't listen to (willful) sinners, but if someone is God-fearing and does God's will, God listens."*

2. **The History lesson:** *"In all the ages, no one has heard about someone opening the eyes of one born blind"*

#### E. 9:34 - Our text ends with the once-blind man being excommunicated

1. Truth-tellers are seldom popular; whistle blowers are often fired

- a. If the world can't win the argument; they'll cast an aspersion
- b. The darkness can't tolerate the Light so *"they threw the man out!"*

*"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all manner of horrible things about you, falsely, because of your devotion to me. Rejoice! Leap for joy! Because your reward is huge in the heavens, because this is exactly how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* (Matthew 5:11-12)

2. If we're ever put on trial for following Jesus, may there be enough evidence to convict us