

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 9:

vs. 1-12

The question of the disciples was typical for the Jews. Many times, they had seen in their history, God striking individuals or the nation with disease of some type, because of sin. Since this man was blind from birth, they reckoned that it must have been the sin of the father or mother which caused the man to be blind. Jesus explained that the cause of the blindness was not the result of some sin, but to fulfill God's work. The laws of nature, which God created, are evidence of order and power. This shows that our universe is not here by chance but by the direct will of God.

Jesus explains to His disciples that the time is coming when they will no longer have opportunity to do the will of God, here on this earth, and we should take advantage of the opportunities that God presents to us now. Jesus then takes the opportunity to heal the blind man. Notice that the healing comes as a result of the actions of both Jesus & the man.

Those who knew the man who had been blind, were amazed. The man explained that it was, he, and that it was the one called Jesus who had been responsible for his ability to see.

vs. 13-34

The former blind man was brought to the Pharisees so that they could examine the situation and find if any wrong was done, since it was the Sabbath. The Pharisees were divided over the matter of Jesus being from God. Some continued in their attempts to deny it. As the discussion goes on the healed man tries to persuade them with arguments that God only listens to the righteous and not sinners, God only could have performed such a miracle, therefore the man, Jesus, must be righteous and from God. The man's parents had been afraid to speak because of what the Jews might do, [excommunicating them-- keeping them from going to the temple], yet, this man was convinced that Jesus was from God and was not going to let anyone intimidate him, or keep him from proclaiming his story. The Pharisees resort to slander and boasting, trying to make the man feel inferior.

vs. 35-41

Jesus searches out the man He had healed, and speaks with him. Jesus tells the man that He, is the Son of Man and that he had come for judgement and to make those who are spiritually blind able to see, and those who pretend to follow God would miss the truth. The man in response to Jesus claiming that He is the Son of Man, states his belief in Jesus and worships Him.

The Pharisees feel that Jesus has implied that they are equal to everyone else in their blindness and take offense at the matter. Jesus then states that they will remain guilty of their sins since they claim they are following the truth, but in reality have failed to see it.

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 10:

vs. 1-21

Jesus speaks to the people in a story. They were familiar with shepherding and would have understood the truth in Jesus' parable. The sheep pen was made of a small building which had an adjoining court which was surrounded by a stone wall. On top of the wall would be thorns, to discourage people from trying to go over the top. The court had one door which was closely watched and guarded by the shepherd after leading each of the sheep into the court for the night. The sheep would follow only the shepherd's voice, who would call each by name.

Jesus then explains, that He is the gate of safety for the sheep of the world. To enter the fold, people can only go through Him. All others, trying to show man the "way", are robbers and are trying to deceive the sheep. Those deceivers will kill the sheep, whereas Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has come to give man life more abundant and greater than anything they have ever experienced.

Jesus explains that the good shepherd will give up his life for the sheep, and that He was going to give His life for all mankind. The other sheep, refers to the Gentiles who would come to Christ.

Following Jesus' parable and explanation, the controversy continues concerning Jesus being from God.

vs. 22-42

The feast of dedication was a time when the Jews celebrated the re-dedication of the Temple for God's use after it had been misused and defiled by foreigners. This also became known as Hanukkah, or the feast of lights. During this time, the temple and each house would be lit by candles for all 8 days of the feast.

The Jews continue to persist asking Him if He was the Christ. Jesus states that He had already told them and that the miracles He had done, should have convinced them, but they failed to believe because they were not His sheep or seeking to do the will of God. Jesus' sheep are those that listen to Him and obey. He will therefore know each of His sheep, give them eternal life and the assurance that nobody will take them away from Him or the Father.

The Jews prepared to stone Him because He had claimed equality with God. Jesus speaks in His defense. His arguments made sense and the people held off until He stated that not only His teachings, but also His miracles shows that He and the Father are one. Now the people would not be stopped, so they thought.

Jesus escapes from them and goes back across the Jordan. Many people came to Him, and believed.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 9:

1. What was the reason that the man was blind from birth, according to Jesus?
2. What did Jesus do to the man who was blind?
3. What was the man to do and what was the result?
4. How did the man explain to the people how he was healed in verse 11?
5. On what day had Jesus healed the blind man?
6. What two statements were made by the Pharisees that divided them in vs 16?
7. What did the man say about Jesus in verse 17?
8. Why were the mans parents afraid of the Jews?
9. How did the blind man reason that Jesus was from God? (see vs. 28-33)
10. What did the former blind man, say and do when told that Jesus was the Son of Man?
11. What did Jesus say in response to the Pharisees question in verse 40, 41?

BONUS:

1. Show how the physical healing of the blind man is similar to our spiritual cleansing from sin.
2. Show the arguments that were used to try to persuade the Pharisees that Jesus was from God.
3. How do péople today, try to give the impression they are Christians, when they really aren't following God?

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 10:

1. List the things that the watchman would do for the sheep.
2. Who will be saved according to verse 9?
3. Why did Jesus come, according to verse 10?
4. What would a hired hand do if the sheep were attacked?
5. What would there be ONE of, when Jesus brought in other sheep that are not of this pen? (see vs. 16)
6. Why does the Father love Jesus according to verse 17?
7. What do Christ's sheep do?
8. What does Christ do for His sheep?
9. Jesus told the Jews not to believe Him unless what was true? (see vs. 37)
10. Why did Jesus want them to believe the miracles, even if they wouldn't believe Him?

BONUS:

1. Tell me, what it means to you, that "Jesus is the Good Shepherd".
2. Tell me, how can people be the flock that Jesus wants them to be?