

Remnant Life Church

September 24, 2017

John

The Sixth Sign: The Healing of the Man Born Blind (Pt 2)

John 9:13-34

- First sign – turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-12)
- The second – clearing the temple (John 2:13-25)
- The third – the healing of the official's son (John 4:43-54)
- The fourth – the healing of the lame man by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15)
- The fifth – feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1-15)
- The sixth – the healing of the man born blind (John 9:1-12)

This story presents blindness of many types

Segment 1 - verses 1-5

- The disciples ask Jesus why the man was born blind
 - Believing that sin made people sick or caused them to suffer
 - Jesus immediately corrects them
 - **They are blinded by false and incorrect doctrine**
- Jesus then tells them that He (the light) will not be with them much longer
 - A sense of urgency to always do the work of God wherever you are

Segment 2 – verses 6-12

- Heals the man born blind
 - Spits on the ground and makes mud
- Wash in the pool of Siloam means “sent”
 - One of the 4 headwaters that divided out of the river that ran through the Garden of Eden
 - The Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, and Euphrates (Gen 2:10-14)
- (vv 8-12) The man now returns dramatically and fundamentally changed – he can see!
 - Isn't that the same man? (9:8)
 - No, it only looks like him! (9:9)
 - **These people are blinded by cynicism**
 - Our world's “sophistication” and “intellectualism” blind us to the things of the spirit
 - Matt 11 – Jesus says that things are hidden from the wise and revealed to little children

READ – John 9:13-34

Segment 3 – verses 13-17

- The first interrogation by the Pharisees
 - **The Pharisees are blinded by their ego**
 - (v 14) John now writes that this has happened on the Sabbath

- He does not wait to do this because it is not important
- He does it now because it establishes the framework for how the Pharisees respond
- Jesus has broken 2, if not 3, oral laws (not written laws of Moses)
 - Healing on the Sabbath (except for cases of danger of death)
 - Kneading dough – spit into mud could have been seen as too similar to allow
 - Possibly anointing the eyes on the Sabbath (they were not even sure)
- (v 15) The man is being questioned intensely but it is not “who” or “why” but “how”
 - The Pharisees were not concerned with the outcome only the process by which it happened
- (vv 8-9) – First the crowd was divided on what had happened
- (v 16) - But now so are the Pharisees
 - The Pharisees are deducing that because Jesus has broken the oral law of the Sabbath He could possibly be from God (He did not fit into their mold)
 - They are declaring that they are right in spite of what they are seeing
 - Jesus could not be from God if He does not agree with them
 - They are drawing on the warnings of Moses to guard against false prophets who take the people away from God (Dt 13:1-5)
 - But this was not what they were actually worried about
 - They could see that Jesus was not taking people away from God
 - He was taking them away from them and their control over the people
- Some of the Pharisees are also saying that God would not listen to or work through a sinful man
 - While that is true we must be careful of a trap of the enemy
 - Miraculous signs are not an infallible guide or proof of godly authority or His presence
 - Arron’s staff became a snake when he threw it on the ground (Ex 7:10)
 - But so did the staffs of pharaoh’s priests (Ex 7:11)
 - Jesus rebuked the people who only came to Him because of the food He miraculously provided for them (John 6:26)
 - His desire then, as it is today, is for faith to be the draw of the heart (eternal food) not the need of the stomach (John 6:27)
 - Must guard against desiring the things of God rather than God Himself

- (v 17) The Pharisees now turn back on the man who was blind
 - They are already beginning to back-pedal
 - The man states very plainly that Jesus “is a prophet”
 - He is not claiming that Jesus is “the prophet” (Moses)
 - But his spiritual eyes are beginning to open more even as the Pharisees eyes are growing more and more dim

Segment 4 – verses 18-23

- The interrogation of the man’s parents
 - The Pharisees are getting nowhere with the man so they go after his family
 - The neighbors may not have been clear on who the man was but surly his parents could be counted on
 - This backfires as they confirm that the seeing man is their blind son
 - (v 19) Three questions are asked of the parents
 - Is this your son? Yes, it is
 - Was he born blind? Yes, he was
 - How was he healed of this blindness?
 - Not as quick to answer knowing the penalty (v 21) (although the reader does not yet know)
 - (vv 22-23) Explains their fears
 - Being thrown out of synagogue means being ostracized by the community as well
 - They, quite unexpectedly, throw their son under the bus – WHY?
 - **They are blinded by fear**