



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel

John 9:13-34

From Sermon 3.24.24

Read *John 9:13-34*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With the miraculous healing of the man born blind, two stark changes take place in the narrative. 1) Jesus leaves the story for a while and the man is the focus. 2) A trial within a trial ensues with the prosecutors (the Pharisees) attacking and discrediting the healed man in an attempt to discredit Jesus. The man's response and early testimony is some of the best in all of Scripture.

1. What did the religious leaders say would be clear evidence someone was from God? Strick observance of the Sabbath

1a. What had Jesus done that (they felt) violated the Sabbath? Made clay and healed.

1b. What did the transformed man (and some of the crowd) state was clear evidence someone was powered by God? Power over nature—Over disease & blindness.

2. Previously, the leaders vocalized their faith in a connection to Abraham. Who do they rely on in this account? Moses and, therefore, the Law.

2a. Just as He dissected their false doctrine on Abraham, what did Jesus say about Moses? If Moses were there that day, he would testify on Jesus' behalf. Everything in the Law—including the Sabbath—points to Jesus. Moses wrote about the Messiah. See also *John 5:45-46*

3. From this account and others like it, what sad reality is highlighted? That most people will be hesitant to believe the change (if they ever believe at all). They will not celebrate radical life change, repentance, and healing. But instead, be skeptical, cynical, and envious. Read these two accounts and discuss:

The demon-possessed man at the tombs—*Luke 8:26-39*

The conversion of Saul/Paul—*Acts 9:11-21*

4. In our testimony, what are some things people can argue/dismiss? The sincerity of the Church. Jesus. The Bible. History. What are some things they cannot argue? My story. The changes in me.

5. The Parent's Fear: what fears stop people from coming to Christ and radical life change? Various answers. The Cost. The exclusion from old friends, family, and social events. See *Matthew 13:20-22*

6. If you were a little older at conversion or had a somewhat checkered past, what was the reaction of those closest to you when you were saved? Various answers.

6a. Does any of the negativity still exist today? How do you deal with it?

7. What if the unbelievers in our life have no problem with including us in all things they do and have no issue with our biblical stands and positions? We may want to re-evaluate our walk and witness. Am I accurately and faithfully reflecting Christ in my daily life? *John 15:19 & 17:14*