



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 24

Preacher – Larry Fultz | Text – John 9:1-41

Summary:

In chapter 9 Jesus restores the sight of a man who was born blind. This provokes a confrontation with the Pharisees, who claim that because Jesus performed the miracle on the Sabbath, he could not be from God. This was refuted by the evidence of healing in the formerly-blind man, and in a fit of pique the Pharisees threw the man out of the Synagogue (in effect cutting him off from the Jewish people). As the chapter closes, Jesus reveals himself as the Son of Man, and in Jesus he who was once blind finally sees the One who is truly worthy of worship.

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. What did Jesus mean in his response to the disciples in verse 3 ("It was not that this man sinned, but that the works of God might be displayed in him,")? What would be the outcome of the man's hardship and years of struggle due to his blindness?
3. **Application:** What does this text tell us about how God responds to the hard and evil things in this world? How have you seen God's response to the hardships in your own life?

4. Why were the Pharisees so upset about what Jesus did? Why did they not believe his story about having his sight restored (v. 18).

5. As they question the man's parents, the Pharisees are clearly looking for a rational explanation for what was actually a miracle (see vv. 18-19). In other words, they were tying themselves in knots trying to explain the miraculous in everyday terms. Why?

6. **Application:** How do we tend to overlook the miraculous in favor of natural or rational explanations?

7. Why were the man's parents unwilling to answer the Pharisees' question about how their son gained his sight (vv. 21-23)? Contrast that with the man's response to the Pharisees' question in 27-33. Why do you think the formerly blind man was so bold when his parents were silenced by fear?

8. **Application:** What makes you bold in the face of opposition to your faith? When do you feel timid and afraid? How can we become more bold.

9. What made the same event (restoring the man's sight) lead to two completely opposite responses (the formerly-blind man's belief and the Pharisees' rejection)? What does this passage say about true blindness (see especially vv. 39-41)?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?