

Truth on Trial

Title: Truth on Trial

Text: John 9

Introduction: Paul asked the Galatians, “So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?”¹ It was Pilate who asked the question of Jesus, “What is truth?”² The truth is painful when it brings down our own prideful towers. Men won’t admit to a creation God because that implies they have someone to be accountable too. The Pharisees saw all the miracles Jesus was doing. They saw all the healings. Yet, the truth of who Jesus was, the very Messiah they taught about in the Old Testament, but it wasn’t the Messiah they wanted. This chapter will be helpful as we look at chapter 13 in Matthew in the coming weeks.

Application: Today you may want a god that meets your criteria. And you will ignore the truth of Scripture to get that. John 9 is where the Pharisees put the truth on trial. They will do anything, say anything and flat out deny the truth in order not to accept the truth.

Point 1 - The Healing Of The Blind Man (Vs. 1-12)

(Vs. 1-5) - All that God does is so that He is glorified. Even in difficult circumstances, God is not out of control. He didn’t ask for blindness. But God used it and planned it.

(Vs. 6-7) - His obedience to Jesus command. His sight.

(Vs. 8-9) - The response of the neighbors.

(Vs. 10-12) - The response of the man

NOTE: We see the amazement of the his neighbors who knew this man to be blind and beg. They investigated the fact he could now see. Then they brought him to the Pharisees. Why? To show them? To prove to them? Maybe so.

Point 2 - The Controversy Of Truth (Vs. 13-18)

(Vs. 13-15) - The facts are, he was formally blind and no one could deny that. The word formally means “*at one time.*” The neighbors had sought questions of him and now the Pharisees ask him the same question again. His response, He applied clay to my eyes, I washed, I see. This is a physical healing in our text. But later He believes spiritually. However, before Christ we are all blind to truth. And then He opens our eyes.

(Vs. 16) - Some of the Pharisees admitted to the healing unknowingly. But denied the truth they spoke of because He healed on the Sabbath. I suppose you could heal on the other six days. But others said how can a sinner perform such signs? It seems they were cracking under the pressure of the truth. They didn’t see themselves as sinners. They were attempting to do all they could to ignore the truth.

¹ Galatians 4:7

² John 18:38

Truth on Trial

(Vs. 17) - They asked again as if there would be a different answer. The interrogation into the truth, they were hoping for him to crack to say it was a lie or a scam. The man called Jesus a prophet. He recognized Him as from God. He didn't understand the theological aspects of this. He was a beggar. He was blind. He was an outcast.

NOTE: After questioning his claims and not receiving answer satisfactory to their agenda, they just said it wasn't true.

Point 3 - The Interrogation Of Truth (Vs. 18-23)

They accused him of making up this healing claim. Was there not many witnesses? Yes. But yet they did not believe him that he was blind and could now see. Vs. 19 the Pharisees ask the parents how the child now sees. As if they would know this. The parents confirmed this was their son. They confirmed he was born blind. But since it happened to him, ask him they said. Why are you asking the parents?

Point 4 - The Second Interrogation Of The Man (24-34)

(Vs. 24-25) The Pharisees demanded he admit this was not done by Jesus. The man gave the only testimony he knew to give. He was uneducated. He was a beggar. He didn't know the systematic theology of the Scriptures. But what he did know is he was blind and now he sees. Ephesians 2:1-5, "**And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ.**"

The Pharisees simply could not accept the truth. They could not accept that this man was healed by Jesus whom they hated so much. Again they ask (vs. 26) what He did to him, how did He do this? Why didn't they get it? Why didn't they accept it? They kept asking and interrogating hoping for some different results. We do this. We keep looking and looking for some kind of justification for our unbelief and sin. We hope we get a different answer. The old saying is the definition of stupid is "**doing the same thing over and over again hoping for a different result.**" This is what the Pharisees were doing. Asking again and again hoping the answer would be what they wanted to hear.

NOTE: This is where some of you may be. The evidence of God is clear. The fact you are exposed is clear. You can't deny what God has done around you. And yet, you still look for an answer that satisfies your human nature. People do this with salvation. They keep trying something until they are satisfied.

(Vs. 27-29) - The man was frustrated with their questions. He asked them if they wanted to become a disciple too? What an insult to the self righteous, educated Pharisees. They reviled him when he said this to them. The word reviled means "*to reproach, rail at, revile, heap abuse upon.*" How dare you say we want to be His disciples. The Pharisees kept looking away from the miracle.

Truth on Trial

The response of the Pharisees that we “*know that God has spoken to Moses, but we don’t know where this man is from*” (emphasis mine), is full denial of what the OT was prophesying. Educated teachers of the law missed the prophecy they taught, because it didn’t fit their will.

(Vs. 30-34) - The man’s response to the educated leaders and teachers of the law. He rebukes them with the truth. You many not know where He is from, but He opened my eyes. Don’t you see this? Don’t you get it? Why can’t you see this miracle, and put away your self righteous pride and believe!

The man testified of God’s changing power. He didn’t know a lot about theology. But what he did know was that he was blind and can now see. And that if this man weren’t of God, He could not have done what He did. There’s a place in our lives where we simply cannot deny what the truth of God is, but we won’t see it. The Pharisees couldn’t deny it, but they wouldn’t see it.

The only response the Pharisees had was “*we aren’t sinners and you are so leave.*” Truth on trail and according to the Pharisees, the truth was found guilty of not aligning to their views and thrown away. Throughout history, men have been martyred for the truth. In today’s culture, truth such as marriage, family, gender, sexuality are all under assault by crusaders of wokeism. They are trying to redefine truth. They can’t. They won’t. But they will ignore truth. The evidence was before the Pharisees and in a hail Mary effort, they just threw the healed beggar out.

Point 5 - The Truth Exposes Man’s Condition (Vs. 35-41)

(Vs. 35) - Jesus finds the man He healed. Don’t you love this. Jesus found Him. He was a blind beggar who was healed. His neighbors questioned him, they brought him to the Pharisees who questioned him twice, his parents were questioned and he was cast out. All of these tried to cast doubt about what had happened to him. Now this man was a sinner they say. But he says, how can a sinner do this?

Jesus asks the question in vs. 35. Do you believe? Unbelief is the only unforgivable sin. Who is he the man asks? I am He Jesus says. In the simplest form of belief the man confesses, “**Lord, I believe.**” Quit trying to make sense of God’s grace. His grace is beyond your comprehension. Others will say it’s just some “crutch” for a man to be religious. Some will say it’s “jailhouse religion.” Your spouse, parents, friend and neighbors may shake their heads at your new found sight. But Jesus says “believe.”

What a glorious work of God for Him to open the eyes of the blind. In vs. 39 (and what we will see in Matthew 13) tells us of God doing a great work, opening the eyes to see. Jesus says I have come for those who are blind, so they may see. The blind can’t make themselves to see, but the work of Jesus can. He can remove the sinful scales from their eyes so they see themselves as dead sinners and Christ as the resurrection of life. They don’t rely on their own works, good thoughts or sincere ideas. They know they can do nothing. And He opens their eyes.

For the ones who can “see” they are blinded. They think they see by all they do and keep. The question of the Pharisees in vs. 40 as if they were blind too, and Jesus says because you say you see your sin remains. Jesus didn’t “pick” on the Pharisees, He always warned them of judgment and their own trust in man made works. He spoke the truth to them to stop trusting in themselves and their works.

Truth on Trial

If you say today, you see because of what you have done, you are blind. Some of you may think because you know biblical terms you are okay. Some of you think because you know about God you're okay.