

"Who is Jesus?": Sight John 9:8-23

Introduction:

- Review the account in 9:1-7
- *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see. (Newton)*
- If you claim to "see" spiritually, is Jesus the One you want to see above all else? Or has He truly given you sight (relief from sin and shame) and you take that sight to gaze upon this world? If so, it could be that your "vision" is actually someone else's. You must "see" for yourself.

Testimony to Sight (vv.8-17)

- A) Eyewitnesses (**vv.8-12**)
 - a. Public (v.8)
 - b. Public opinion (vv.9-10) – Continually divides
 - c. Public testimony (vv.11-12)
 - i. Just the facts
 - ii. "The man called Jesus..."
- B) Authorities (**vv.13-17**)
 - a. Pharisees (v.13)
 - i. More immediate theological "guards"
 - ii. Synagogue and Sabbath
 - b. Question of authority (vv.14-17)
 - i. The Sabbath: A question of interpretation
 - 1. Their view of the Sabbath
 - Sabbath is for God (simply put)
 - Doing what God wills alone on that day
 - **Luke 6:1-11** (picking food and eating; healing – the Pharisees

- had missed the point and were overly rigid)
- 2. Their view of Christ
 - His identity would determine whether or not the Sabbath was violated (they gauged Christ by their own standards)
 - Based on signs (but this doesn't solely validate – **Deut.13:1-5** says false prophets can perform signs)
- ii. The Lord of the Sabbath: A question of identity
 - 1. Prophet
 - 2. Evidence is building – greater threat with a greater testimony (just wait till next week!)
 - Spoke to the degree of knowledge and experience
 - Begins with what He's done, but will move toward who He is
 - Christ's initiative / Man's response (the mud, unknown, was for those witnessing – he did not know)
 - Growing assurance for a young believer

C) APPLICATION:

- a. Christian: Is Christ the central figure in your testimony? Are you bold enough to say you know Him?
- b. Unbeliever: Has the Lord moved in you and are you now at the point of obedience to follow? What are you waiting for? Do not fear, for what can man do to you?

Testing the Testimony of Sight (vv.18-23)

- A) Doubt & Verification (vv.18-19)
 - a. Basis of disbelief (**John 3:18**, “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”)
 - b. Wrong question? – Entrapment (the issue here is “who” not “how”)

- B) Plain & Simple (vv.20-21)
 - a. Verified blindness
 - b. Deflection
 - i. “who opened his eyes” (not directly what they asked – helps us see v.22 more clearly)
 - ii. “he is of age”

- C) Sight & Gospel (vv.22-23)
 - a. Jesus is offensive
 - b. Personal issue
 - i. Regardless of the rightness of their deflection to their son’s testimony, the truth is we must all answer for ourselves.
 - ii. Great example of God’s guarding the gospel witness (their fear put their son’s boldness at the forefront, and it will be a powerful testimony we see) – don’t be discouraged at other’s fear. You decide!
 - iii. At least 13 years old (teenagers / young adults... great boldness)
 - iv. Your hope is NOT in other Christians. Your hope is ONLY in Christ!

- D) **APPLICATION:** What’s true about you? This is personal. Is your faith your own, or is it someone else’s you claim? If you have the miracle of conversion, you can stand alone!
 - a. However, you are not alone
 - b. **Heb.12:1-2**, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let

us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”