

Day 1. John 9:18-40

INTERPRETATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

The discussion continues among the Jews and the Pharisees after Jesus healed the blind man. What characteristics of unbelief do you see in verses 18-34? *Answers will vary. The evidence is never enough, rejecting the facts, self-centered, self-righteous.*

How did the blind man's parents respond to the intimidation from the Pharisees? *They didn't want to be on record as admitting that Jesus healed their son. They said to ask their son directly because they were afraid.*

What is the blind man's answer when he is interrogated by the Pharisees for the second time? *I was blind, now I see (v25). Sarcastically asks, do you want to become his disciples?(v27) He is clearly from God because he opened my eyes (v30,33)*

The Pharisees claim in verse 29 that they “know that God has spoken to Moses.” Read John 5:39 and explain how they are spiritually blind. *Jesus said the Old Testament Scriptures bear witness about him. So, if they studied the words of Moses, they should be able to see that Jesus is the fulfillment of what Moses wrote.*

The irony in this section is that the formerly blind man could see more than the Pharisees. He had spiritual insight. The greatness of the miracle meant that Jesus was from God. In verse 34, we see that the Pharisees were ignorant of Scripture. The Old Testament indicated that the Messianic Age would be evidenced by restoration of sight to the blind. Read these passages and write what you learn:

Isaiah 29:18 – *in that day... the eyes of the blind shall see*

Isaiah 35:5 – *the eyes of the blind shall be opened*

Matthew 11:2-5 – *When Jesus was asked by John the Baptist if he was the Messiah they'd been waiting for, he said that the blind receive their sight, as an indication that he was fulfilling OT prophecy*

Luke 4:16-21 – *Jesus read the OT prophecy from Isaiah in the synagogue that said that the blind would receive their sight. Then he told them that “today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*

The blind man hadn't seen Jesus yet. He is the first man recorded in Scripture to have been thrown out of the synagogue because he chose to follow Christ. This is his first encounter (verses 35-41) seeing the One who had healed him! How do you know that the blind man has spiritual sight? *He confessed that he believed and worshiped Jesus.*

Verses 39-41 may seem confusing at first. Read these additional passages and explain what this section means. Isaiah 6:8-10 (this is Isaiah's message to Judah who would not respond), John 3:16-18, Mark 2:17. *Answers will vary. God used Isaiah's message to hide the truth from*

unreceptive and unbelieving people, much like Jesus' teaching did to the Pharisees. Whoever does not believe is condemned already (blind). Sinners (those who are spiritually sick) are the ones who Jesus came to save – those who know they are spiritually blind.

Can you summarize in your own words what this section means?

Answers will vary. The blind man and the Pharisees show a contrast between belief and unbelief, or between spiritually seeing and spiritually blind people. Jesus showed his deity by healing the blind man.