

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
“The Gospel of John”
Pastor Jim Otte
2019- 2020

Lesson 39: John 9:30 - 10:6 “I Was Blind, But Now I See”

³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

- a. **“Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.”** – Ironically, the Pharisees demanded that the man honor God by submitting to their legalism; while they themselves dishonored God in their unbelief in Jesus!
 - a. How could such religiously educated men of God – become so blind to the freedom that Jesus was offering?
 - i. When life gets chaotic, and people begin to feel that their identity and security is threatened, life can feel out of control.
 - ii. (Historically, during the intertestamental period, when **“there was no word from the Lord,”** the survivability of the Israelites was truly threatened: exile, desecration, death. The religious sects like Pharisees rose out of that turmoil).
 - iii. Seeking a measure of security, people turn to the control that rules and laws promise. The men of God turned to God’s Law and sought to apply it to every conceivable situation, turning 10 Commandments into 613 specific situational rulings.
 - iv. Over time, their focus shifted from the freedom, which serving God under His Law provides, to a legalistic imprisonment in which serving became joyless and fearful.
 - v. Over time, they began to measure a person’s spirituality and faith, on the basis of adherence to the externals ignoring the fact that faith is internal.
 - vi. Saddest of all, they taught this to the people, imprisoning people in their own insecurity, reinforcing it with use of labels like “sinner,” and “good Jew,” etc.
 - vii. UNTIL JESUS CAME ALONG to free them from their prison, and to show them that identity and security come by grace through faith.
- b. **“He answered”** – the man himself is given the opportunity to witness
 - a. He speaks only what he knows (*“though I was blind, now I see.”*)
 - b. He doesn’t argue; he simply states the obvious (*“I have told you already.”*)

- c. He shifts the conversation by asking questions (“Do you also want to become His disciples?”)
- c. **“And they reviled him.”** – disgusted that an uneducated man should lecture them and call them to repentance!
- d. **“but we are disciples of Moses.”** – teachers of the Law
- e. **“Why this is an amazing thing...if this man were not from God...”** – the uneducated is now teaching the educated! (Perhaps with just a little sarcasm?)
 - a. **1 Corinthians 10:26-30.** *For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,^[c] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being^[d] might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him^[e] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*
 - i. **“according to worldly standards”** – society determines the worth and value of a person based on his/her outward credentials: celebrity status, financial holdings, tenure, achievements, family name/heritage, etc. Worldly standards include:
 1. What you do or have accomplished.
 2. What people think of you or how popular you are
 3. How much you have acquired, earned, or possess.
 - ii. **“But God chose what is foolish...weak...low and despised”** – God operates out of a radically different mindset: intended for our benefit – to keep us from our own greatest enemy: selfish pride, which thinks it does not need God’s love, and the manner in which He gives it: through Jesus!
 - iii. **“so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”** – Human nature is naturally self-absorbed; even Christians are susceptible to prideful boasting, which could lead to thinking you aren’t dependent on God’s grace. God’s grace determines your worth and value, because it is based unconditionally!
 1. **2 Corinthians 12:2-10** ⁷ *So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations,^[a] a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.*
 - a. **“conceited”** – a sense of spiritual pride, which sees itself superior to others, and less in need of God’s grace.
- f. **“And they cast him out.”** – the man paid the price for his trust in Jesus and the witness he gave to the Pharisees.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”^[c] ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt;^[d] but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

- a. “Jesus heard...and having found him” – Jesus sought the man out and found him.
- b. “He said, ‘Lord, I believe,’ and he worshiped Him.” – Not only did the man receive a physical healing from Jesus, but now he has come to faith for spiritual healing. No longer imprisoned by his blindness, he can see in faith.
- c. “those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” – Jesus’ play on words: “**see...blind**” – our human capacity to think we know everything, can blind us to what God is actually doing.