

I. FIRST BIRTH BLIND

- A. A man blind from his birth (vs. 1)
 - 1. God’s Word does not leave wiggle room (he wasn’t nearsighted)
 - a. But blind – specifically without seeing
 - b. Life without light until the Light of the World brightened his eyes
 - c. It does us well to remember from time-to-time
 - i. Not to glory in the past
 - ii. But what it was like before salvation
 - iii. The loneliness, comfortless, hopeless life we lived
 - iv. What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought...
 - d. Blind, with no hope of seeing
 - i. No doctors, no science, no spiritualism could help
 - ii. Only Jesus
 - 2. He is the LIGHT of the world
 - a. Isn’t that word great? Light! Were you ever scared of the dark?
 - b. I was – I’ll admit it.
 - c. Psalm 18:28 – “For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.”
 - d. Meaning, understanding, visibility, knowledge, reason, openness, look it up in Webster’s 1828 – over 50 entries under the one word!
 - e. And Jesus is the Light
 - 3. And we are sent to be Light as well
 - a. Pastor Gray and the flashlight
 - b. A little homey but the meaning is clear
 - 4. Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
- B. The Neighbors KNEW (vs. 8)
 - 1. From the last message – the neighbors knew him
 - a. They knew his blindness and that he begged
 - b. When the young man affirmed his identity, they accepted it
 - c. Without further question
 - 2. They wanted to know what happened and he told them (vs. 11)
 - 3. His testimony never changed by the way
 - a. Psalm 107:2 – “Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;”
 - b. He freely told / no man-fearing spirit about him
 - 4. And the results of the young man’s testimony?
 - 5. They IMMEDIATELY wanted to find Jesus (vs. 12)
 - a. Such a wonderful result! They wanted to know Him

- b. But unfortunately, the young man was caught unable to help
- c. This is why we must memorize the Bible and carry tracts
- d. 1 Peter 3:15 – “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

C. The Neighbors Brought (vs. 13)

1. It's easy for me to disconnect this verse or misconstrue
 - a. Over reading vs. Reading Over
 - i. But the Pharisees were not the ones that brought him
 - ii. The neighbors did. Brought him TO the Pharisees
 - b. The Question is why?
 - i. Some think it was for maliciousness – knowing how the religious leaders hated Jesus Christ
 - ii. Some think it was to prove to the religious leaders that they had misunderstood Jesus – that He was GOOD
 - iii. I think they were possibly afraid to think for themselves
 - c. Baptists have always believed in the Priesthood of the Believer
 - d. We can go right to God
 - i. We have bold access to the Heavenly Throne Room
 - ii. We have God's Word
 - iii. Go direct to the Source!
2. And the Bible makes it clear (vs. 14) that it was the Sabbath
 - a. In case you forgot
 - b. Why? Because the Lord is God EVEN on the SABBATH
 - c. They had coopted the Lord's day and made it their own
3. He even made clay!
 - a. Could Jesus have healed without making clay? Absolutely!
 - b. Did He do it to “work” on the Sabbath? Most certainly!
 - c. And was it effective? And How!

II. FIRST ANSWER TO THE PHARISEES

A. Consistent testimony

1. He had already answered before (vs. 10)
 - a. But this was his first answer to the Pharisees
 - b. It was consistent with what he told his neighbors
 - c. And his answer was consistent with the record (vs. 6)
 - d. Without embellishment
2. Our testimony should be simple too
 - a. I had a class on cults (Minimize Scripture, Maximize Experience, Humanize God, and Deifies Man)
 - b. I'm NOT the hero of my Salvation story!
 - c. Jesus Christ is!

B. There was division at his answer (vs. 16)

1. Jesus Christ always brings division – because nothing compares to Him!
 2. Those words are used 3 times in the book of John
 - a. Luke 12:51 – “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:”
 3. Some pharisees opposed but some questioned
- C. He is a Prophet (vs. 17)
1. Their worst fear
 - a. Matthew 21:46 – “But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.”
 - b. A prophet “fore-tells” the Truth, but a prophet also “FORTH-tells”
 - c. And of course Jesus IS the Truth (the Way, the Truth, and the Life)
 2. But they didn’t believe.... Even that he had been blind (vs. 18)
 3. So sad the WILLFUL ignorance of facts
 4. We are little different today...

III. SECOND ANSWER FROM HIS PARENTS

- A. They call in his parents (vs. 19)
1. “Ye say...” essentially calling them liars, fakes, or charlatans
 2. And then they ask HOW again
 3. Isn’t it interesting that they keep asking how?
 - a. They are interested in the mechanism not the man
 - b. They want to hear the method not the miracle
 4. Testimony meetings
 - a. Pastor Gray used to like to open up for testimonies after revivals
 - b. I learned some people got Saved out of unlikely circumstances
 - i. Some people get Saved in Church
 - ii. Some get Saved alone with God in the middle of night
 - iii. Some get Saved in their homes
 - iv. But all got Saved God’s way!
 - c. Jude 1:3 – “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
 5. These Pharisees were more concerned about the how than the “IF”
- B. His Parents (vs. 20)
1. They should have supported him – believed him
 - a. You would expect them to be happy
 - b. We don’t know what happened but why would he lie?
 2. They told the truth – He’s our son. He was born blind.
 - a. And that’s all they were willing to say
 - b. Why? Because of fear (vs. 22)
 - c. There are churches facing fines for worshiping God TODAY
 - d. IN AMERICA! And it shouldn’t ought to be!

3. The synagogue was the center of their society
 - a. To be put out would be to truly be outcast
 - b. What would we do? Read Foxes book of Martyrs
 - c. What if someone said, "Recant Christ or die?"
4. The coward dies a thousand deaths, but brave hearts die but once
5. Liberty dies with a whimper
- C. Vs. 18 – The Pharisees could no question his prior blindness ("until")
 1. They are about to get more than they bargained for...
 2. 1 Corinthians 3:19 – "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

IV. THIRD ANSWER UNDER PROTEST

- A. Give God the Praise (vs. 24)
 1. Means they could no longer deny the facts or the miracle
 - a. But they didn't want Jesus to get any credit for it
 - b. They were denying that Jesus is God
 2. He repeats the same testimony (I was blind, now I see)
- B. They reviled the healed man and cast him out
 1. What did they want him to do? Pretend to be blind again?
 - a. Act like he'd never met Jesus?
 - b. And they again ask "HOW"
 - c. It's not a how, it's a who! It's not a plan, it's a man!
 2. He's told them three times and they won't hear it! (vs. 27)
 - a. Romans 10:17 – "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
 - b. But they reviled him
 3. Vs. 30-34: Altogether born in sins
 - a. Oh, how wrong! Same error as the disciples in vs. 2!
 - b. They say sins (plural) they are counting good works for Salvation
 - c. What did David say?
 - d. Psalm 51:5 – "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."
- C. They cast him out
 1. When religion casts you out, fall straight into the arms of Jesus Christ
 2. Religion is what man tries to do for God
 3. Salvation is what God has already done for man!

V. NEW BIRTH BELIEVING

- A. We know
 1. 1 John 3:14 – "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

2. He wasn't resting on someone else's say-so (vs. 30)
 - a. My wife and I know a person who has to call her mother
 - b. To remember how she got Saved
 - c. I can take you to the spot. I can remember the time!
 3. He KNEW the Lord had changed him!
- B. 1 John 5:13 – “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”
- C. You can know today that you have a home in heaven!