

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for May 21-22, 2005

"The Blind Man's Healing Investigated"

John 9:19-34

The first characteristic of willful unbelief is that it sets false standards (John 9:13-16).

The second characteristic of willful unbelief is that it insincerely seeks more evidence (John 9:17-18).

The third characteristic of willful unbelief is that it does biased research (John 9:19-24).

John 9:19-21 describes for us the Pharisees' interrogation of the blind man's parents.

The parents were afraid of sharing what they knew about the healing of their son because they believed that they might be put out of the synagogue (John 9:22-23).

Being "put out" apparently meant that the person who had been disciplined would be cut off from the social and religious life of the synagogue.

The parents' fear of being put out of the synagogue if they honestly answered the questions of the Pharisees led the parents to suggest that the Pharisees talk to their son (John 9:23).

The Pharisees, in John 9:24, in talking with the blind man, were not in any mood to ask him any more questions. Rather, they came to him in order to tell him what to do.

The Pharisees believed that the blind man should give glory to God and not to Jesus, because Jesus, in healing the blind man, violated the Sabbath and was therefore a sinner.

Accusing Jesus, after their research, of being a sinner but giving Him the credit for the healing was unreasonable, but this conclusion was inevitable because of their bias against Jesus.

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The fourth characteristic of willful unbelief is that it rejects the facts (John 9:25-33).

This former blind man, in the use of sarcasm in John 9:27, appears to be rebuking the Pharisees for their willful unbelief while bearing witness to his own allegiance to Jesus as a prophet of God.

If the Pharisees, as they claimed, were the disciples of Moses, then they, like the man, would have become disciples of Christ (John 5:46-47).

The Pharisees were attempting in John 9:28-29 to make the blind man look foolish, but instead they made themselves look foolish to the blind man (John 9:30).

Since the Pharisees were so ignorant of something that was so obvious, the blind man chose to instruct the Pharisees by using a syllogism in verses 30-33.

The conclusion of the blind man's syllogism, based on facts that these willfully unbelieving Pharisees had rejected, was that Jesus was from God (John 9:33).

The fifth characteristic of willful unbelief is that it is egocentric (John 9:34).

When the Pharisees told the man that he had been born entirely in sins, they were communicating their belief that his former blindness was the result of his, or his parents', sin.

May God give us the grace to be as faithful in bearing witness to the work of God as this blind man, no matter how the willfully unbelieving might respond