

# ***Light in Darkness: A Study of John 9***

## ***Part 2—The Healed Man and the Pharisees***

**John 9:8-16** “The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? **9** Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. **10** Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? **11** He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. **12** Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. **13** They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. **14** And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. **15** Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. **16** Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.”

### ***Introduction:***

**“I am the light of the world.”** This was the powerful statement that Jesus made about Himself on at least 2 occasions during His public life and ministry. Both instances are recorded for us in the Gospel of John with the first one being found in John 8:12, and the second in John 9:5.

**John 8:12** “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

One of several “I am” statements recorded in John’s Gospel, this would have been received by a predominantly Jewish audience as a clear claim to divine authority. In John 8:13-59, Jesus will offer a strong defense of His claim which culminates with another claim—a claim to divine nature.

**John 8:58** “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am”

What we see in chapter 9 are real life examples of Jesus bringing light into the world. From the disciples, to the blind man, to the Pharisees, Jesus shines a light into the darkness and dramatically changes the circumstances. Jesus is still the Light of the world today, and He is still changing lives today!

### ***I. The Testimony of the Healed Man***

After the blind man is healed, he begins to share his story with anyone who asks. Even though he did not fully understand who Jesus was, we will see that he became a persistent and bold witness for Jesus. There are several observations that we can make about this man’s testimony that can help us as we strive to be faithful witnesses for Jesus!

**Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

### **A. All About Jesus**

**2 Corinthians 4:5-7** “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

**John 3:22-30** “After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. **23** And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. **24** For John was not yet cast into prison. **25** Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. **26** And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. **27** John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. **28** Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. **29** He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. **30** He must increase, but I must decrease.”

### **B. Personal**

If you have been saved, you have a story worth telling! Your story involves unique people, places, and circumstances and you can use it all to point people to Jesus!

### **Galatians 4:11-24**

### **C. Honest**

One reason Jesus followers are afraid to be a witness and share their testimony is the legitimate fear of being asked a question that they don't know how to answer. The truth is, we don't have all the answers! Be honest with people and use that authenticity as a way to create more Gospel-conversations!

**1 Peter 3:12-17** “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. **13** And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? **14** But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; **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: **16** Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. **17** For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

## **II. The Reaction of the Pharisees**

Jesus puts the spotlight on the Pharisees and makes it clear to all who they really are and what they are all about!

### **A. The Hypocrisy of the Pharisees**

They directly question the man, and not because they are interested in the truth or because they care about him in any way. They question him so that they can control the situation, discredit the man's testimony, and attack Jesus.

**Matthew 15:7-8** *"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."*

### **B. The Pride of the Pharisees**

**Mark 7:1-13** *"Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. 2 And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. 3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. 5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? 6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. 7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. 10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: 11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. 12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; 13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."*

### **C. The Self-Righteousness of the Pharisees'**

**Matthew 9:10-13** *"And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? 12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*

