

## Responding to Unbelief

John 9:13-34

3/05/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture: John 9:13-34

### Introduction

- Last week we studied the first 12 verses of John 9 as we looked at the healing of the man born blind.
- The point that was made, is that God can use trials and tribulations in our lives to bring him glory.
- The situations that we go through in our lives can strengthen our faith and bring us closer to God.
- The man that was born blind was not born that way because he or his parents sinned, it was simply so that the works of God could be displayed in his life for all to see.
- God has a unique way of making bad circumstances and situations be things of beauty and glory.
- We need to step back sometimes and ask ourselves how we can bring glory and praise to God in the middle of the storms, not just when they pass.
- This morning we are going to look at Responding to Unbelief as we read how the blind man, and his parents were questioned by the Jewish religious leaders.
- We experience unbelief even in the face of miracles today too, and we need to know what we are up against and how to respond.

### John 9:13-34

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup>Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. <sup>17</sup>Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. <sup>19</sup>"Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" <sup>20</sup>"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God, " they said. "We know this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" <sup>26</sup>Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" <sup>28</sup>Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup>We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. <sup>32</sup>Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

- Remember in vv.8-12 the man's neighbors and friends began to question him about the miracle.
- They argued amongst themselves as to whether he was the man that was born blind, then questioned him about how it happened, and where the man that performed the miracles was.
- **V.13** – Now we see that they took him to the Pharisees, which were a group of Jewish religious leaders.
- **V.14** – The day Jesus performed the miracles was the Sabbath, and that is a major reason the people took the man to the Pharisees.
- It was wrong to even heal on the Sabbath according to the religious leaders. **Mark 3:1-6**

## Responding to Unbelief

John 9:13-34

3/05/2017 Sunday AM

- **Vv.15-17** – So we see the Pharisees began to question the man about how he was healed.
- Once they found out that he was healed by Jesus making mud and placing it on his eyes, some began to accuse Jesus of sinning and not being from God. They said, “for he does not keep the Sabbath.”
- However, as the end of v. 16 says, “they were divided” because some of the others asked “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?”
- So they turn back the man and ask him what he thought about Jesus, although they never use His name.
- The man responded that “He is a prophet.”
- So what we have here is a man that was born blind, now healed, and being interrogated by his neighbors and religious leaders relentlessly.
- Some of the people believe him and some of the people do not, even despite what they see with their eyes.
- **Vv.18-23** – The Pharisees still did not believe he was the one born blind, “until” they questioned his parents.
- His parents confirmed that he was the one born blind and that he was not healed, but were too afraid to say how and credit Jesus with the miracle. They were afraid of being put out of the synagogue.
- What does that say about their faith?
- **Vv.24-25** – The Pharisees brought the man back and demanded that he “Give glory to God” because “We know this man is a sinner.”
- The man’s response is awesome, ““Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”” A lot of “I” statements in that response!
- **In the face of absolute unbelief, this man used his most powerful tool, his testimony.**
- **Vv.26-28** – They tried to question him again with the same questions and he responded with sarcasm.
- After asking them why they wanted to hear it again he asked, “Do you want to become his disciples, too?”
- That really got to them and they “hurled insults at him” and asserted that they were “disciples of Moses!”
- **Vv.29-30** – They told the man that they knew God spoke to Moses, but they didn’t even know where “this fellow” comes from.
- Again the man’s response is beautiful, “Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.”
- He chose not to engage in their argument, but to again reassert his testimony to them.
- However, he did take it a step further as he used his knowledge Scripture to engage them.
- **Vv.31-34** – “<sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. <sup>32</sup>Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”
- All of these statements are rooted in the man’s knowledge of the Scripture.
- They were not having any of it though, they called him a sinner and threw him out.
  
- What we can learn from this is that unbelief is often **irrational** and **insulting**.
- You will face this type of unbelief as you share your faith, respond much like the healed blind man.
  - Don’t be afraid to answer tough question even from people you know.
  - Don’t allow them to draw you into their argument, present your testimony boldly.
  - Ensure that everything you, say and do is rooted in your knowledge of the Scripture and you use it.
- **It’s not our job to overcome unbelief, God does that. It’s our job to plant seeds that He makes grow.**

## Tonight’s Bible Study

The Book of Colossians – “The Goal of Gathering” Colossians 2:1-7

Wednesday Night

Who’s Who in the Bible? – Elisha – 1 and 2 Kings

**Responding to Unbelief**  
**John 9:13-34**  
**3/05/2017 Sunday AM**