

Blinder than Blind

John 9:1-41

Introduction:

- A. TV commercial: “Cleaner than Clean”; “Whiter than white”.
 - 1. Cartoon about these: “They must think we are 'dumber than dumb’”
 - 2. Blind man's observers were indeed, “blinder than blind”.
- B. The truth the observers could not see: Jesus is Divine.
 - 1. The evidence plain enough for anyone to see. (vs. 25, 31-32, 35-38). -- Like plains passages today. (cf. Mk. 16:16; Eph. 4:4; Matt. 19:9; Rom. 6:4; Heb. 10:25, etc.)
 - 2. The evidence could only mean Jesus is Christ. (cf. John 20:30,31).
- C. The truth was missed by them because of *blind spots* that many have today:

Discussion:

I. Fear

- A. Afraid of deciding for oneself.
 - 1. The neighbors had the evidence but carried him to Pharisees. (vs. 8-12).
 - 2. People have Scriptures but afraid to study for selves. (cf. Acts 17:11)
 - a. Does not mean one can never seek help. (Acts 8:31)
 - b. Does not mean one should despise leadership. (1 Thess. 5:12,13).
 - c. Does mean that religion is not to complicated to common folk.
 - d. Does mean that should not let “church”, preachers etc study and supply our answers for us.
- B. Afraid of being “put out” by others.
 - 1. Parents were afraid of being “put out of the synagogue” (vs. 18-23).
 - 2. People fail to understand and stand because of same fear.

II. Tradition

- A. Pharisees blinded by traditional (Not Scriptural) view of Sabbath. (v. 16, 24).
- B. People cannot see plain teaching because conflicts with their traditional view.
 - 1. Tradition is not bad, depends on its source. (cf. 2 Thess. 3:6).
 - 2. Human tradition without religious significance not necessarily bad.
 - 3. Human tradition with religious significance is bad. (cf. Matt. 15:6).

III. Prejudice

- A. Jews had already had their minds made up. (v. 22).
 - 1. At first denied the miracle. (v. 18).
 - 2. Then denied that Jesus performed it. (v. 24).
 - 3. Anything but give up their prejudiced conclusion.
- B. People today miss truth because have already decided it could not be so.

IV. Pride

- A. Pharisees took pride in their tradition and heritage (v. 28-29).
 - 1. Can reduce church membership to tradition and take pride in it.
 - 2. Can take pride in national and religious heritage. (cf. Lady in Wisc.)
- B. Pharisees took pride in their position. (v. 34).
 - 1. Diotrophes may have taken pride in his position. (3 John 9).
 - 2. We can take pride in our position.
 - a. As elders, preachers, etc.
 - b. As members of “church of Christ”.

Conclusion:

- A. All need to be careful to honestly weigh evidence and obey truth.
- B. All need to form strong convictions.
 - 1. Do not need to be tossed about by every wind of doctrine. (Eph. 4:14).
 - 2. But, must be open-minded to strong evidence to change convictions.

