

Lesson 14: Contention Over The Man Born Blind

February 24, 2021

John 9:1-41

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

HOW WAS THE BLIND MAN MADE TO SEE? John 9:6-12
9:10-12 – The purpose of this miracle had been served.

- This was a sign that effectively convinced the neighbors that Jesus had supernatural powers. (cf. Acts 2:22; John 2:11; John 3:1-2; John 20:30-31)
- The neighbors ask, “Where is he?”

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

John 9:13-41 – In this portion of the text, the Jews condemn Jesus because he has healed a man born blind.

- Brought him to the Pharisees.
 - They were considered by the populace to be the authorities in matters of legal observance and religious orthodoxy (cf. John 7:47-48).
- The Jews try to intimidate the man who was healed.

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

A DIVISION BEGINS TO ARISE ABOUT HOW A SINNER CAN DO SUCH MIRACLES. John 9:13-34
9:13-16 – **This healing was on the sabbath.**

The Pharisees continue to condemn Jesus because the healing was **done on the Sabbath** implying that he had broken the law of Moses.

- This is only one of seven instances where Christ affected cures on the Sabbath day (Matthew 12:9; Mark 1:21, 29; Luke 13:14; 14:1; John 5:10).
- “The making of clay with spittle was clearly an infringement of the Pharisee’s Sabbath regulations as related in the Mishnah (*Shabbath 14*), though totally in harmony with the spirit and letter of the law given by Moses.” (Daniel King, *John*, Truth Commentaries, Page 246)

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

A DIVISION BEGINS TO ARISE ABOUT HOW A SINNER CAN DO SUCH MIRACLES. John 9:13-34
9:13-16 – These Jews are so prejudiced that they cannot see anything good about what Jesus did. (cf. John 5:16-18; cf. John 7:21-24)

- Their efforts are not unlike their previous efforts to reject Jesus and His miracles.
- It is incredible that the Jews, in spite of this miracle, seek some excuse by which to justify their own rejection of Jesus.
- “Among the thirty-nine works forbidden to Jews on the Sabbath (Mishnah *Shabbath 7:2*) was kneading, and Jesus had kneaded the clay with his spittle to make the mud.” (Daniel King, *John*, Truth Commentaries, Page 246)

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

9:17-18 – The Jews did not believe that this man had been born blind.

- The purpose of this is to disprove the miracle that Jesus has done.
- Another question is if Jesus was a sinner how could He do the works that He did.
- The blind man affirms that Jesus was a prophet.

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

9:19-23 – The parents testify that this was their son and that he was born blind.

- The parents are not willing to affirm how their son can now see.
- We see their reluctance to affirm that Jesus is from God.
- They were afraid that the Jews would cast them out of the synagogue if they confessed that Jesus is the Christ.

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

9:19-23 – To be cast out of the synagogue was a very severe excommunication. It involved separation from all social ties as well as religious.

- cf. John 12:42-43 – This threat intimidated even the rulers themselves.
- "The practice of excommunication among the Jews comes from very early times ('separated from the assembly,' Ezra 10:8).
- "The Mishnah attests to two different forms:
 - (1) A temporary exclusion lasting thirty days; and,
 - (2) A permanent ban, or *herem*. Later Jewish law included also a minor ban of about a week's duration." (Daniel King, *John, Truth Commentaries*, Page 249)
- This illustrates that the doctrine of faith only is not true. Here are some believers who were lost. (cf. Matthew 10:32-33)
- Believers who are saved should have the courage of their convictions. (cf. Luke 6:22; John 16:2)
- Are you intimidated by what others think?

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

9:24-34 – These rulers question this young man trying to get him to reject Jesus.

9:24-27, "We know that this man is a sinner."

Their reasoning:

- (1) The Law forbade work on the Sabbath;
- (2) Jesus had healed on the Sabbath;
- (3) Therefore, Jesus was a sinner.

Contention Over The Man Born Blind John 9:1-41

9:24-34 – THESE RULERS QUESTION THIS YOUNG MAN TRYING TO GET HIM TO REJECT JESUS.

9:24-27, "We know that this man is a sinner."

- This man's reasoning:
- He simply affirms what he knows. "I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."
- Rulers continue to press: "How opened he thine eyes?"
- The young man tells them, "I told you even now, and ye did not hear; wherefore would ye hear it again? would ye also become his disciples?" (cf. John 10:24-25) "Tell us plainly ..."

cf. 8:25-28, "They said therefore unto him, Who art thou? Jesus said unto them, Even that which I have also spoken unto you from the beginning."

"I Am the light of the world"

John 8:12-30

8:25-28, "They said therefore unto him, Who art thou? Jesus said unto them, Even that which I have also spoken unto you from the beginning."

Jesus had repeatedly told them He was the Christ, the Son of God!

- The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, "I know that Messiah cometh (he that is called Christ): when he is come, he will declare unto us all things." Then Jesus said to her, "I that speak unto thee am (he)" (John 4:25-26).
- After healing a man who had been lame for thirty-eight years, Jesus claimed, "My Father worketh even until now, and I work" (John 5:17). The Jews understood His claim and "sought the more to kill him" (John 5:18).

"I Am the light of the world"

John 8:12-30

8:25-28 – Jesus had repeatedly told them He was the Christ, the Son of God.

- Jesus claimed that He was not of this world and then said, "for except ye believe that I am (he), ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:23-24).
- In that same discourse, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was born, I am." Once again, "They took up stones therefore to cast at him ..." (John 8:58-59).

"I Am the light of the world"

John 8:12-30

8:25-28 – Jesus had repeatedly told them He was the Christ, the Son of God.

- John 10:24-25, "The Jews therefore came round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou hold us in suspense? If thou art the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believe not: the works that I do in my Father's name, these bear witness of me."
- John 10:30-31 – Jesus claimed, "I and the Father are one" and, "The Jews took up stones again to stone him"
- In John 10:36, Jesus said, "I am the son of God."

"I Am the light of the world"

John 8:12-30

8:25-28 – Jesus had repeatedly told them He was the Christ, the Son of God.

- He later said, "If ye had known me, ye would have known my Father also: from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and dost thou not know me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; how sayest thou, Show us the Father?" (John 14:7-9).
- **John 8:27, "They perceived not that he spake to them of the Father."**

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9:28-29 – They "reviled him..."

- "to speak in a highly insulting manner – 'to slander, to insult strongly, slander'" (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain)
- "Thou art **his** disciple; but we are **disciples of Moses**. We know that God hath spoken unto Moses: but as for this man, **we know not whence he is**." (cf. 7:27; 8:14; and 19:9).
 - *Asked and answered.* (7:16, 41; 8:14)
- John 9:30-31, "The man answered and said unto them, **Why, herein is the marvel, that ye know not whence he is, and (yet) he opened mine eyes.** We know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and do his will, him he heareth."

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John 9:1-41**

Jew's reasoning:
9:16, 24-27

"This man is not from God."
"We know that this man is a sinner"

- 1) The Law forbade work on the Sabbath;
- 2) Jesus had healed on the Sabbath;
- 3) Therefore, Jesus was a sinner.

Blind man's reasoning:
9:17, 28-34

"He is a prophet."
... reviled by the Jews.

- 1) God heareth not sinners. (9:31)
- 2) This man opened my eyes. (9:25)
- 3) If he were not of God, he could do nothing. (9:33)

John 9:32, "Since the world began it was never heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind."