

The Gospel of John 9:14-41

I Persecuted by Religion (9:14-34)

- A. The Lord again purposely did a sign on the Sabbath (5:10, 16), which strengthened religion's opposition, but it also served to expose the vanity of religion. By contrast, the religionists showed their obsession with the minutiae of the law; they exhibited an extreme legalism. They used the law as a snare for others, while being selective when the law was not convenient for themselves. Despite their legal fanaticism, they were full of unbelief. They cared more for their legalities than for people. They rejected people's testimony and used the law to intimidate and browbeat them, instead. (vv.22, 34) They used religion, and their adherence to it, to justify themselves, as superior to all others.
- B. In chapter nine, we can see the persecution of the Lord by religion. This matter is emphasized by John in his writings. John shows us that the Hebrew religion, not a pagan religion, persecuted the Lord Jesus. This religion with its forms, rituals, ordinances, and practices opposed Christ as the living reality.
1. For example, Christ is the real temple, and all the forms, rituals, ordinances, and practices are pictures of Christ as the living Person, the One who is the unique reality, but the Jews still held on to their religion. John, therefore, points out that these religious things oppose the living Person of Christ, who is the Triune God incarnated and who has become the life-giving Spirit.
 2. Today this One is working within us, upon us, and among us. But just as religion opposed Him in ancient times, so religion opposes those who follow the Lord today. As long as something has become a religion, it stands in opposition to the living Christ
- C. Eventually, religion discards this former blind man. Since they were unable to help, they cast him off. To cast him out was to excommunicate, ostracize, him from the Jewish synagogue. This was to put him out of the sheepfold, as spoken by the Lord in 10:3-4. Religion's persecution of the Lord's called one did nothing but fulfill what the Lord intended for him.

II Believing into the Son of God (9:35-38)

- A. The blind man came to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. The blind man received his sight by a kind of obscure believing. He believed, but he was not clear. He was simply innocent. He believed without really knowing who Jesus was. He believed in an innocent way. Although he did not know adequately who Jesus was, he did believe that Jesus was someone special and he argued about this with the Pharisees. Eventually, the Pharisees cast him out. Then, the Lord Jesus found him and said, "Do you believe into the Son of God" (9:35). The blind man replied, "And who is He, Lord, that I may believe into Him?" (9:36). He believed, yet he did not know the Lord Jesus. Then the Lord said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the One speaking with you" (9:37). Then the blind man declared, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Him (9:38). He believed that the man Jesus is the Son of God. Thus, the blind man not only received his sight, but he himself was received by the Lord Jesus.
- B. This means that the Lord, as the shepherd, entered the sheepfold, saw a little, blind sheep, opened his eyes, and then led that sheep out of the sheepfold. In one sense, the sheep was cast out; in another sense, the Lord led him out.... The Lord did not carry him out of hell but out of the sheepfold....The sheepfold was Judaism, the law-keeping religion. The blind man, like the blind and lame people on the porches in chapter five, was kept on the law-keeping porch. Then the Lord Jesus came, not only as life, but also as the shepherd, to lead him out of the fold. The Lord is sovereign. Many of us were in the fold of religion. Perhaps you were there as one who was lame. We all were on that porch. Thank the Lord Jesus for His sovereignty. He came as life to heal our blind eyes and as the shepherd to lead us out of the fold.
- C. Notice that the Lord Jesus did not ask him if he believed the Son of God; He asked him if he believed into the Son of God (v.35)....Believing into the Son of God implies an organic union between the believer and the Son of God in whom he believes. When we believe in the Son of God, we believe into Him. This means that our believing brings about an organic union between us and the Son of God, and in this union we are one with Him. It is in this way that the light of the world comes into a blind person. It is in this way that a person born blind becomes one with Him who is the light of the world. The result is that blindness vanished.

III Life Judgment on the Blind Religion. (9:39-41)

- A. The Lord told the Pharisees that He came to judge. But He told Nicodemus that He came not to judge but to save (3:17). He found a seeking soul in Nicodemus; therefore, He will not come to condemn the world, but to save the world. However, He saw pride in the Pharisees; hence, He will come to judge them. Whether the Lord will come to judge or to save you, depends upon your attitude. If your attitude is like that of Nicodemus, He will come to save you. If your attitude is that of the Pharisees, He will come to judge you. Whether the Lord will become a Judge or a Savior to you depends upon your attitude.
- B. The Lord will seriously vindicate Himself when anyone is proud to assert himself with many claims. When someone asserts himself with many claims, it means he does not need the Lord. Consequently, the Lord will leave such a person in his blindness. We must be very careful not to proudly say that we can see. If we claim that we see, the Lord will leave us blind. The Lord said that He will give sight to those who cannot see, but that He will make blind those who claim to see. This is a serious vindication of the Lord. Thus, we must be humble and not proud. Pride simply means blindness and darkness.
- C. The Son of Man will execute judgment over all the unbelieving ones (John 5:22-23, 27, 30). As the Son of God (5:25), the Lord can give life (5:21), and as the Son of Man, He can execute judgment (5:27). Since He is a man, He is fully qualified to judge man. Acts 17:31 says that God will judge the world "by a man (Jesus) whom He has designated." Romans 2:16 says, God shall judge the secrets of men according to my gospel by Jesus Christ." Second Timothy 4:1 says, "Christ Jesus, who is about to judge the living and the dead." The Father "gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man" (John 5:27). And the Father gave all judgment to the Son "that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father" (5:22-23). The Son will judge justly according to the Father's will (5:30). He is one with the Father in the matter of life's enlivening. He is also one with Him in the matter of judgment.
- D. The Lord mentioned the blind receiving sight first in Matthew 11:4-5 because there was no such miracle in the Old Testament. By this, He gave clear evidence to John (the Baptist) that no other could have done such a miracle but the Messiah (Isa.35:5). In spiritual significance, the blind receiving sight is also first. In the Lord's salvation, He firstly opens our eyes (Acts 26:18); then we can receive Him and walk to follow Him.