WHEN UNBELIEF INVESTIGATES A MIRACLE

JOHN 9:13-34

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO JOHN CHAPTER 9. THIS GOSPEL IS OFTEN CALLED THE GOSPEL OF BELIEF. JOHN'S MAJOR PURPOSE IN THIS GOSPEL IS TO EMPHASIZE THE DIETY OF JESUS. THE ACCOUNTS THAT JOHN SHARES WITH US ARE STRATEGICALLY PLACED. KNITTING TOGETHER A BEAUTIFUL TAPESTRY OF EVIDENCE ALL POINTING TO ONE THING, JESUS IS THE MESSIAH. HE IS MORE THAN JUST A MAN, A PROPHET, AND TEACHER. HE IS THE "MONOGENES" THE ONE AND ONLY SON OF GOD. JOHN SHARES HIS MOTIVATION AT THE END OF THIS GOSPEL IN CHAPTER 20 VERSE 31. "BUT THESE ARE WRITTEN THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, AND THAT BY BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE IN HIS NAME." WHAT BETTER WAY TO SHINE A LIGHT ON THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS THAN TO SHOW HOW MUCH UNBELIEF JESUS ENCOUNTERED. MANY PEOPLE STUCK IN THEIR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND PRIDE REJECT THE GOSPEL FROM JESUS AND ULTIMATELY WILL KILL HIM FOR IT. THANK GOD DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM DOWN. CHAPTER 9 BEGAN WITH JESUS SEEING A BEGGAR BORN BLIND. IN HIS GRACEFILLED MERCY JESUS APPROACHES THE MAN, SPITS ON THE GROUND, MAKES MUD, AND ANOINTS HIS EYES WITH IT. AT JESUS' COMMAND TO GO AND WASH IN THE POOL OF

SILOAM, THE MAN WITH NO HESITATION OR QUESTIONS, OBEYS AND IS HEALED. JESUS GAVE HIM NEW EYES TO SEE. THIS MAN HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE LIVING GOD AND HIS TESTIMONY IS SIMPLE, "I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE". HE STILL DOESN'T KNOW JESUS AS LORD, BUT GOD IS FAITHFUL TO FINISH WHAT HE STARTS IN EVERYONE HE CALLS "HIS". TODAY WE WILL SEE IN VS. 13-34, UNBELIEF TRY TO CHALLENGE TRUTH, AT IT'S DEMISE. UNBELIEF IS HOSTILE, RIGID, IRRATIONAL, AND ABUSIVELY REJECTS THE GOSPEL.

John 9:13 New International Version

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

THIS WAS APPROPRIATE. IT WAS A MIRACLE. SO, THEY WENT TO THE ONES WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO KNOW GOD THE MOST TO HELP EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED

John 9:14-15 New International Version

14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. **15** 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."

THE RIDICULOUS RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS WERE MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM THAN THE MAN BEING HEALED. INTELLECTUAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD WITH NO LOVE IS DANGEROUS

THIS MAN KEEPS HIS TESTIMONY SIMPLE, BECAUSE THAT'S ALL HE KNOWS. HE DID WHAT JESUS TOLD HIM TO DO

John 9:16 New International Version

16 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 perform such signs?" So they were divided.

WE SEE THE HOSTILITY OF UNBELIEF AND THE DIVISION WITH PEOPLE THAT CAN ACTUALLY SEE EVIDENCE AND THINK CLEARLY. WE WILL EXPERIENCE THIS WHEN SHARING OUR FAITH. THEY WON'T EVEN SPEAK HIS NAME. "THIS MAN". THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN, NOT MAN FOR THE SABBATH

JESUS NEVER VIOLATED GOD'S LAW, HE FULFILLED IT

John 9:17 New International Version

17 Then 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."

THE PHARISEES ADMIT THAT A MIRACLE HAS TAKEN PLACE. THEY ARE FRUSTRATED AT THIS POINT, STILL UNBELIEVING

ALTHOUGH THE MAN DOES NOT KNOW JESUS AS LORD YET, HE KNOWS HE HAS HAD AN EXPERIENCE WITH SOMEONE WHO KNOWS GOD

THIS IS A REFLECTION OF WHAT HAPPENS. SINNER/SAINT

John 9:18-19 New International Version

18 They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. **19** "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

WE SEE THE RIGIDNESS OF UNBELIEF. CLEAR EVIDENCE IS PRESENTED BUT THE REFUSAL TO BELIEVE IT IS A HEART THAT IS HARDENED. PRIDE HARDENS THE HEART. REPENTANCE KEEPS THE HEART SOFT

John 9:20-23 New International Version

20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. **21** 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." **22** His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. **23** That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

THIS MAN'S PARENTS ARE SCARED OF BEING EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE SYNOGOGUE

THEY FEARED MAN MORE THAN THEY FEARED GOD. FITTING IN WITH SOCIETY IS THE WRONG ANSWER CHURCH

John 9:24-25 New International Version

24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." **25** 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!"

THIS IS A JEWISH "SWEARING IN" FROM JOSHUA 7:19

UNBELIEF IS IRRATIONAL. CONFLICT WITH IRRATIONAL PEOPLE CAN ESCELATE FROM INTELLECTUAL, TO EMOTIONAL, TO VERBAL ABUSE, TO VIOLENCE

KEEP YOUR TESTIMONY SIMPLE. "I WAS LIKE THIS BUT NOW I'M LIKE THIS"

A PERSON WITH AN EXPERIENCE IS NEVER AT THE MERCY OF SOMEONE WITH ONLY AN ARGUMENT

John 9:26-28 New International Version

26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" **27** 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?" **28** Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!

HOW MANY TIMES ARE THEY GOING TO ASK SUCH A RIDICULOUS QUESTION? I LOVE THE SARCASM FROM THE MAN WHO CAN SEE

NOW THE NAME CALLING STARTS. THOSE WHO CANNOT BEAR THE TRUTH WILL DEFLECT WITH PRIDE, "DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM!!" AND HURL INSULTS

A DEGREE IN THEOLOGY DOESN'T MAKE YOU A TRUE DISCIPLE. WHEN YOU KNOW GOD, YOU LOVE GOD, AND YOU OBEY HIM

John 9:29-33 New International Version

29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." **30** The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. **32** Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

YOU GUYS CLAIM YOUR GOD'S FAVORITES YET YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE JESUS (WHO IS OBVIOUSLY DIVINE) COMES FROM? WHAT A JOKE!!

PRIDE WILL HARDEN YOUR HEART TOWARDS GOD AND THE THINGS OF GOD

THIS MAN LAYS OUT THE TRUTH AGAIN. THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS AND THERE NEVER WILL BE.

SATAN CANNOT CREATE, ONLY THE CREATOR CAN CREATE SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS ACCORDING TO HIS WILL. 1 JOHN 5:14-15

John 9:34 New International Version

34 To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

UNBELIEF RESORTS TO VIOLENCE/EXCOMMUNICATION

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL INVITATION OF NEW LIFE IN CHRIST THE MESSIAH HAS BEEN LAYED BEFORE THEM IN THIS MIRACLE.

YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH JESUS WILL SUSTAIN YOU CHURCH

KEEP YOUR TESTIMONY SIMPLE AND DON’T SHRINK BACK WHEN FACED WITH UNBELIEF OF OTHERS. IT WILL HAPPEN

RELIGION WITHOUT CHRIST IS FUTILE