

An Outline of John's Gospel

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
 - 2. Opposition in Galilee (6:1-71)
 - 3. Settled Opposition in Jerusalem (7:1-10:39)
 - 4. Belief across the Jordan (10:40-42)
 - 5. Hardened Opposition in Jerusalem (11:1-12:36)
 - 6. The hour has come (12:20-36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

Authority Gone Wrong

Gospel of John, Part XXXII

John 9:13-41

Stuart W. Bryan

I. In Authority & Under Authority

II. Judging the Healed Man

A. Investigating the Healing (13-17)

B. Seeking Corroboration (18-23)

C. The Judgment of the Pharisees (24-34)

D. The Judgment of Jesus (35-41)

III. Encountering Ungodly Authority

A. Treasure Christ's work in your life (cf. 1 Pet 3:15)

This blind man didn't know much about Jesus. He was not a professional theologian. But he did know that Jesus healed him and he would not back away from the truth just to satisfy the Pharisees.

In his first epistle, Peter commands us to "*be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us*" (3:15). What does Peter's command presume? It presumes that we have hope.

So what has Jesus changed in your house? God is real, and he has acted in your life. Do you see his actions for what they are? Do you know God in Christ? Have you been born again? Has your spiritual blindness been healed?

B. Don't be surprised by opposition and criticism (1 Pet 4:12-14)

Don't be surprised when ungodly authorities endeavor to silence the truth. The Apostle Peter reminds us:

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

1. Jesus exasperates enemies of the Gospel

"Christ purposely chose a sabbath day, which would give cause of offence to the Jews. He had already found, in regard to the paralytic, that even this work was open to misrepresentation. Why then does He not avoid the offence, as He could easily have done, save because the malignant reaction of His enemies would magnify the power of God? ... we are taught by this example that if we want to follow Christ, we have to exasperate the enemies of the Gospel, and that those who compromise between the world and Christ, so as to condemn every kind of scandal, are utterly mad, since Christ, on the contrary, knowingly and deliberately provoked the ungodly." John Calvin

2. Jesus gets the blind man into trouble

C. Speak the truth without fear (cf. Mt 10:27-39; Jn 16:1-4)

"Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." (Mt 10:27-39)

IV. Conclusion