

# John 9:13-34

This is our second week looking at John 9, the story about the man who had been born blind. Last week we looked at the cause of sin and the (new) identity of the man who had been healed of his blindness. This week we will study the reaction of the Pharisees to the healing Jesus performed. To review, the following is an outline of John 9:

R. Alan Culpepper gives the following outline for this chapter in his book "The Gospel and Letters of John."

| <u>Scene</u> | <u>Event</u>                                     | <u>Verses</u> |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| One          | The Healing                                      | 1-7           |
| Two          | The Neighbors' Reaction                          | 8-12          |
| Three        | Pharisees Question the Blind Man                 | 13-17         |
| Four         | Pharisees Question the Blind Man's Parents       | 18-23         |
| Five         | Pharisees Question the Blind Man's Parents Again | 24-34         |
| Six          | Jesus Questions the Blind Man                    | 35-39         |
| Seven        | Jesus Responds to the Pharisees                  | 40-41         |

## 9:14

Why do you think John waits until 14 verses into the story to let the reader know that Jesus did the miracle on the Sabbath?

## 9:15

Read John 1:19-21. Notice how John the Baptist's answers to the questions get shorter and shorter. Now, compare the answers the formerly-blind man gave in 9:11, 9:15 and 9:17. What do you make of this?

## 9:16

What was the issue over which the Pharisees were divided?

## 9:22

Some scholars say that John is applying what was happening to Christians when he was writing his gospel to what was happening to the followers of Jesus during the ministry of Jesus. In other words they are saying that followers of Jesus were not "put out" of the synagogue until long after Jesus had been raised from the dead. How would you respond to these scholars?

**9:24**

John's irony strikes again! The Pharisees make the man swear an oath on God's name, yet the thing they are making him swear is a falsehood. What "we know" ends up being completely untrue. They are speaking about which they know nothing, yet they are claiming it to be the truth.

**9:25**

The man avoids conflict in this verse. He cannot deny the miracle performed on him, but he also wants to avoid angering the Pharisees by claiming Jesus was without sin.

**9:27**

Notice the humor in the man's response. "Why do you want me to keep talking about this man to you if you are so sure that he is a sinner... why do you need my testimony about him?" Compare this to Jesus who does not need the testimony about any man because he knew what was in a man. (John 2:23-25.)

**9:28-29**

The irony in this verse is that Moses spoke about Christ Jesus. Not only are the Pharisees not followers of Jesus; they also do not listen to Moses.

**9:34**

Why do the Pharisees cast the man out of the synagogue?

What did it mean for this man to be "cast out"?

The Pharisees cast out a man whom Jesus, in the next passage, will receive. How can we receive people in the name of Jesus whom the world casts out?