

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## JOHN 9.13-27



**T. M. Moore**

*A Scriptorium Study*

*And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,*

*He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24.27*

**The Fellowship of Ailbe**

The Gospel of John: John 9.13-27  
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## Introduction to *John 9.13-27*

The Pharisees desperately wanted to discredit and destroy Jesus. They figured they could bully this “blind man” into agreeing with them that Jesus was a sinner, evn though He’d done a good work.

Wrong.

So they tried to bully the man’s parents into denying that he’d really been born blind.

Nope.

Back to blind-man-now-healed, but he stood the argument on its head by holding firm to his testimony and exposing the true motivations of his judges.

Ouch!

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## 1 Sabbath-Breaker (Again)

*Read and meditate on John 9.13, 14.*

John knew how to build tension into a story. Jesus had previously “violated” the Sabbath, bringing the contempt of the Pharisees upon Him (Jn. 5). John’s mentioning that Jesus healed this man’s blindness on the Sabbath taps into the tension that arose earlier, and adds to the tension that was already in Jerusalem because of the disputation in John 7 and 8.

*<sup>13</sup>They brought unto the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>It was the Sabbath when his eyes were healed, when Jesus made the clay and he received his sight.*

- John 9.13, 14

*Reflect*

1. The people were divided concerning this man, as we have seen. So they brought him to the Pharisees. What does this suggest about the role of the Pharisees in social matters in Jerusalem? What did they stand to lose, if they were unable to silence Jesus? Complete this prayer: *All power and authority belong to You, Lord Jesus. Help me use Your power today to...*

2. Do you sense a kind of *daring* in John’s mentioning *two* works that Jesus did on the Sabbath (“made clay” and “opened his eyes”)? Explain. *Give me boldness, Lord, to do whatever You command, regardless of...*

3. The Pharisees had already sent a posse to arrest Jesus, and they were doubtless among the “Jews” of chapter 8 who tried to stone him. They had also posted a warning against believing in Him (Jn. 9.22). Now they were presented with yet more evidence of the “problem” of Jesus. Do you think this softened or hardened them? Explain. *Lord, some people just do not want to believe in You, but they still need to hear that You are the Christ. Use me today to...*

4. In view of Jesus’ previous Sabbath confrontation with the religious leaders, why would He deliberately heal on the Sabbath again? Especially after what had happened at the Feast of Tabernacles? *Lord, when You’re right, You’re right, and when I need to do what’s right, I...*

5. We get the sense that Jesus and tension somehow go together. What does this suggest for our experience as followers of Jesus? Explain. Bring together into one the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“The Evangelist remarks that it was ‘the sabbath’ in order to expose their real design ... which was to accuse him of a departure from the law and thus detract from the miracle.” *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

Jesus can be a real “problem” for established authorities, received traditions, and settled ways of doing things. He tends to upset the *status quo*, even in our own lives. And that’s a good thing. Explain.

*Closing Prayer*

The fool has said in his heart,

“There is no God.”

They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity;

There is none who does good.

God looks down from heaven upon the children of men,  
To see if there are *any* who understand, who seek God.  
Every one of them has turned aside;  
They have together become corrupt;  
*There is* none who does good,  
No, not one.  
Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge,  
Who eat up my people as they eat bread,  
And do not call upon God?  
There they are in great fear  
*Where* no fear was,  
For God has scattered the bones of him who encamps against you;  
You have put *them* to shame,  
Because God has despised them.  
Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!  
When God brings back the captivity of His people,  
Let Jacob rejoice *and* Israel be glad.

Psalm 53

**Psalm 53** (*Leoni: The God of Abraham Praise*)

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God at all!"  
Corrupt are they in whole and part, unjust and small.  
Not one of them does good; God sees their wicked ways.  
None understands the Word of God, or gives Him praise.

Have all these wicked men no knowledge of God's grace?  
The Church they hate with passion and seek not God's face.  
Lord, strike their hearts with fear, where fear was not before.  
And scatter all who camp so near Your holy door.

The wicked flee in shame; their ways our God rejects.  
Renew Your people in Your Name with great effects.  
Let great rejoicing sound once we renewed have been,  
And let salvation's Word resound from us again!

## 2 A House Divided

Read and meditate on John 9.15, 16.

Jesus can upset the settled *status quo* and create division where none existed before. It's what we expect of Him.

*<sup>15</sup>So right away, the Pharisees inquired concerning how he had received his sight. "I'll tell you how," he said, "He put clay on my eyes. I went away and washed, and now I see."<sup>16</sup>And then the Pharisees replied, "This Man has not been sent from God, because, whereas He ought to keep the Sabbath, He does not." "But how," asked others, "can a sinner do what now we see this Man has done, these many signs?" And so there was division.*

- John 9.15, 16

*Reflect*

1. The Pharisees asked a simple question, and they received a concise answer. The man did not attempt to explain; he merely told them his experience. What did Jesus do? What did he do in response? What was the outcome? Can this provide an outline for your own testimony of Christ's work in your life? Explain.

Complete this prayer: *Help me to clear and confident, Lord, when it comes to telling others about...*

2. The Pharisees were so hung up on their tradition – which it was their job to enforce – that they minimized the miracle wrought on this poor man. Do you think this happens in the church sometimes? Do we allow our settled ways of believing or doing things to keep us from seeing the mighty works of God? Explain. *Lord, help me to be alert to Your great works, so that...*

3. Others among the Pharisees weren't so ready to dismiss Jesus as a sinner. They appear to have been more thoughtful, and more inclined to consider other possibilities (v. 16b). If you had been present in this situation, what might you have said to this second group of Pharisees, to keep the conversation going? *I know there must be people in my Personal Mission Field who are more open-minded toward You, Lord. Show me how to...*

4. As we have seen before in John's gospel, Jesus creates such a powerful response in people that divisions can arise, and people can become set against one another over the question of Jesus. Should we try to avoid such uncomfortable situations? What should be our posture whenever such divisions become apparent? *Give me grace in all my words, Lord (Col. 4.6), that I may know how to...*

5. Let's face it: When we talk with people about our experience of Jesus, and what He has done for us, some people will dismiss our testimony, while others will be willing to talk a bit more, but perhaps without believing the Good News. Does *either* of these responses affect the truth of what we have seen and known about Jesus? Should *either* of these responses prevent us from bearing witness? How can we prepare for each of these responses? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"Passing over the miracle in silence, they give all the prominence they can to the supposed transgression. They do not charge him with 'healing on the sabbath day' but with not 'keeping the sabbath.' 'Others replied rather weakly, "How can a man who is a sinner do such miracles?"' They were impressed by his miracles, but

only in a weak and unsettled way. For whereas the fact of whether the sabbath was broken or not might have divided them, they still had no idea yet that he was God. They did not know that it was the Lord of the sabbath who had worked the miracle. Nor did any of them dare to say openly what his sentiments were, but they spoke ambiguously—one, because he thought the fact itself improbable, another, from his love of status. It follows, ‘And there was a division among them.’ That is, the people were divided first, and then the rulers..” *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

Jesus did not avoid conflict over His claims. Neither did those who experienced His grace and power. Neither must we. We are appointed as His witnesses, so we need to be prepared. How will you prepare to be a witness for Jesus today?

*Closing Prayer*

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;  
To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,  
And Your faithfulness every night,  
On an instrument of ten strings,  
On the lute,  
And on the harp,  
With harmonious sound.  
For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work;  
I will triumph in the works of Your hands.*

Psalm 92.1-4

**Psalm 92.1-4** (*Sweet Hour: Sweet Hour of Prayer*)

How good it is to thank the Lord, and praise to God Most High accord;  
By day to let His kindness ring, His faithfulness by night to sing.  
With ten-stringed lute, resounding lyre, and sweetest harp we'll lift You higher.  
For You have made our souls rejoice; we sing Your praise with blended voice!

### 3 A Prophet? Oh Yeah

*Read and meditate on John 9.17.*

It turns out the blind man, now healed, had more understanding about Jesus than the seeing men, who refused to be made well.

*<sup>17</sup>To the blind man once again they said, "What do you say about Him, since He healed your eyes the way you say He did?" "I think that He must be a prophet," he replied.*

- John 9.17

*Reflect*

1. I can't help wondering: Why did they care about what this man thought? He was a beggar! Were they trying to get him to say something to would give them grounds for denouncing, condemning, and being done with him? Did they really think that, if they could just discredit this beggar, the whole "Jesus thing" would just go away? What do you think? Complete this prayer: *Lord, I know some people don't want to talk or even think about You. But You have sent me to them as Your ambassador and witness. As I think about the day ahead...*

2. I sense a mocking tone in the Pharisees' phrase, "because He opened your eyes." The sense in the original Greek is something more like "*since* (as you say) He 'opened your eyes.'" Should we expect people to be skeptical about our testimony, about the things we say Jesus has done for us? Why? *Others may doubt or even mock my testimony, Lord, but...*

3. The blind man, now healed, answered immediately, concisely, and boldly: "He is prophet." What was it about Jesus that would have made him think that? Was he right? Explain. *You are a Prophet, Lord, even the Great Prophet about Whom Moses wrote. Thus, Your words are...*

4. Jesus' impact on this man was both *subjective* and *objective*. It left him with something *he could not deny*, and which *others could plainly see*. Is this what we should expect for ourselves? In what ways? *Holy Spirit, transform me into the image of Jesus Christ, especially as...*

5. We are lingering long over this story of the blind beggar whom Jesus healed, because John does – a whole chapter in a book of 21 chapters covering three years of Jesus' life! John seemed to believe this episode was very important for understanding the story of Jesus and His impact on our lives. What to you, thus far, are the most important aspects of this blind man's story? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"There was a division among them as the day divided between the light and the darkness.... They were looking for a way to denigrate the man and cast him out of their synagogue (although he would be found by Christ). However, he declares openly what he thinks. For he said, 'He is a prophet.' Not yet anointed in heart, he could not confess the Son of God. Nevertheless, he is not wrong in what he says either, for our Lord even says of himself, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his own country.'" *Augustine (354-430 AD)*

We can sometimes read the Bible too quickly, not lingering over a passage or a story, to gain from it all the writer intends. We're taking a slow walk through the Gospel of John, in part to discipline ourselves for more careful reading of *all* Scripture. Have you found this experience of slow reading – we're now in our 30<sup>th</sup> week, and not even half-way through! – to be beneficial? Explain.

*Closing Prayer*

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.  
My soul shall make its boast in the LORD;  
The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad.  
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,  
And let us exalt His name together.  
I sought the LORD, and He heard me,  
And delivered me from all my fears.  
They looked to Him and were radiant,  
And their faces were not ashamed.  
This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard *him*,  
And saved him out of all his troubles.  
The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,  
And delivers them.  
Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good;  
Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

Psalm 34.1-8

**Psalm 34.1-9, 3** (*Alleluia [Lowe]: Mighty God, While Angels Bless You*)

I will bless the Lord at all times; I shall praise Him evermore!  
My soul makes its boast in Jesus – Him we gladly all adore!  
Magnify the Name of Jesus!  
Let us lift His Name in praise!

When I sought the Lord, He answered, and from fear delivered me.  
Those who look to Him are radiant; shamed their face shall never be.  
Magnify the Name of Jesus!  
Let us lift His Name in praise!

When I cried to God, He heard me, and from trouble rescued me.  
‘Round their camp His angel lingers that they may delivered be.  
Magnify the Name of Jesus!  
Let us lift His Name in praise!

Taste and see how good is Jesus; blessed are all who in Him hide.  
None shall lack for any blessing who in Christ will e’er confide.  
Magnify the Name of Jesus!  
Let us lift His Name in praise!

## 4 Parents on the Hot Seat

Read and meditate on John 9.18-23.

The Pharisees were determined to prove their point – whatever their point might have been. Either they were going to prove that Jesus was a Sabbath-breaker, because He healed the man on the Sabbath. Or they were going to prove that He never healed anyone. They just needed to find the right witnesses. We'll see this tactic again..

*<sup>18</sup>They doubted he had been blind and received his sight, and so they called his parents in, that they might know if it were so. <sup>19</sup>They asked them, "Is this man your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>They answered them, "We know he is our son, and was born blind, <sup>21</sup>although we do not know by what means he now sees, or who it was who healed his eyes. Look, he is old enough to answer. Ask him. He will tell you." <sup>22</sup>For they feared the Pharisees, for they had made it clear, that anyone confessing Him as Christ was to be shunned, and put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore they said, "He is of age; ask Him."*

- John 9.18-23

Reflect

1. The Pharisees' focus has turned. First, they denounced Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath (v. 16). Now they deny that He healed at all (v. 18). They don't seem to have been able to make up their mind concerning why they were so upset about Jesus. Does this seem like grasping at straws? Do people still do this today? Explain. Complete this prayer: *I know, Lord, that people can find no end of reasons not to believe in You. Nevertheless...*
2. The Jews called in the man's parents. They asked three things: (1) Is this your son? (2) Is it true he was born blind? (3) How does he now see? Why do you think they did this? Did they regard these parents of a beggar as any more reliable than their beggar son? What were they doing? *People can go a long way to silence a witness about You, Lord, but we just need to...*
3. Put yourself in the parents' shoes. They must answer the questions, or be guilty of insubordination, and in jeopardy of being put out of the community. But if they answered the questions truly, they'd be put out of the community (v. 22)! Look at their answers (vv. 20, 21). Were they accurate? Were they complete? Does it seem as if they knew the answer to the third question (cf. v. 22)? Are you ever attempted to skirt the issue concerning Jesus when the opportunity to bear witness arises? *Lord, give me boldness to speak the truth in love whenever...*
4. The parents put the ball back into their son's court (vv. 21, 23). Better *he* be kicked out of the synagogue than they. Had you been present in this situation, what might you have said to these parents? How can Christians help one another to be bold when opportunities to bear witness arise? *Lord, help us as believers to pray for and encourage one another, and to come alongside whenever...*
5. This episode is taking a rather comic turn. The Pharisees aren't sure about their point. The parents are

terrified and equivocate. They sic the Pharisees on their son. Who's the only honest and truthful person in this whole situation? Explain. What can we learn from him? Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“Besides having spoken falsely, they committed another sin by exposing their son to obvious harm. But I think this also has a reason. When the Savior opened the eyes of the blind man, he did not open those of a child but of one full grown so that he might see as a full-grown man. But such was also the case with other blind men who received sight. However, it is true that he being of full age can speak for himself, and especially so when Jesus makes him receive his sight. For he needs no one else to negotiate for him.” *Origen (185-254 AD)*

Meanwhile, as we can imagine, Jesus is hanging around waiting for this situation to unfold further. He's not in the midst of *this* dispute, but His power is certainly working there. Explain.

*Closing Prayer*

Praise the LORD!  
For *it is* good to sing praises to our God;  
For it is pleasant, *and* praise is beautiful.  
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted  
And binds up their wounds.  
He counts the number of the stars;  
He calls them all by name.  
Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power;  
His understanding is infinite.  
The LORD lifts up the humble;  
He casts the wicked down to the ground.  
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
Sing praises on the harp to our God,  
Who covers the heavens with clouds,  
Who prepares rain for the earth,  
Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.  
He gives to the beast its food,  
*And* to the young ravens that cry.  
He does not delight in the strength of the horse;  
He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.  
The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,  
In those who hope in His mercy.  
Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!

Psalm 147.1-12

**Psalm 147.1-13** (*St. Ann: Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*)

Praise God, for it is good to sing loud praises to the Lord!  
With joy our songs of praise we bring to God and to His Word.

The Lord builds up His Church and He His people gathers in.  
The broken hearts He tenderly repairs and heals their sin.

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The stars He counts, He knows the name of every chosen soul;  
His pow'r is great, and great His fame Who understands us whole.

The humble God exalts above; the wicked He casts down.  
Sing thanks to this great God of love; let songs of praise abound.

He brings refreshing rain to earth and feeds the beasts so dear.  
He puts in man's strength naught of worth, but loves those who God fear.

O praise your God, Jerusalem, O Zion, praise the Lord!  
He strengthens those who trust in Him with blessings from His Word.

## 5 All I Know

Read and meditate on John 9.24, 25.

When we have truly experienced the healing touch of Jesus, no amount of badgering, cajoling, threatening, or intimidating can cause us to deny Him.

<sup>24</sup>Once more  
they called him in and said to him, “We know  
this Sabbath-breaker is a sinner. So  
give God the glory!” <sup>25</sup>But he answered, “I  
do not know if this Man’s a sinner. I  
know only this: I once was blind, but now  
I see.”

- John 9.24, 25

Reflect

1. Can you feel the level of exasperation rising in these Pharisees? Exit, parents; re-enter, blind-man-now-healed. What were these religious leaders hoping to achieve? Complete the following prayer: *I know that many people want me to see You as they do, Lord – harmless, irrelevant, and (hopefully) non-existent. But I...*

2. The Jews, in effect, put this man under an oath (“Give God the glory!”), then they put words in his mouth, trying to help him help them come to terms with Jesus (v. 24). Does this sort of badgering and leading-on affect the way some people think about Jesus? Explain. What’s the antidote? *I have the truth about You, Lord, in the earthen vessel of my frail life. If others are to see You clearly through the lies of this age...*

3. The blind-man-now-healed would neither speculate nor draw conclusions about Jesus’ character. *He didn’t know* about Jesus’ moral character! What did he know? What do *you* know? *I know Whom I have believed, O Lord, and I know that...*

4. Meditate on verse 25. If you had to summarize your experience of Jesus in one short phrase – “One thing I know: that though I was blind, not I see” – what would you say? *Thank You, Lord Jesus, that You...*

5. We note that the Pharisees have brought their argument back to the beginning. There before them was the blind-man-now-healed. There could be no denying that. So they reverted to the “sinner” charge, and tried to get the man to concur. It wasn’t going to happen. Wouldn’t it have been a lot simpler, more *convenient*, for this man to say, “OK, OK, He’s a sinner”? Why wouldn’t he? Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

Summary

“He says, in effect, I do not want to declare what I do not know; nor can I keep silent or hide what I know. I really do not know whether he is what you say he is. In fact, I did not come to know him as a sinner. I was blind, and through my hope I received sight; I know this first of all. It is up to you to judge whether a sinner can do that, because this is what you assert he is.” *Theodore of Mopsuestia (350-428 AD)*

Your personal testimony can be a powerful tool in your witness for Christ. Meditate on Psalm 30. Do you pray your testimony back to the Lord from time to time? Do you think this might be a good discipline? Would it help to make you a readier witness for Christ?

Closing Prayer

I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up,

And have not let my foes rejoice over me.  
O LORD my God, I cried out to You,  
And You healed me.  
O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave;  
You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.  
Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His,  
And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.  
For His anger *is but for* a moment,  
His favor *is for* life;  
Weeping may endure for a night,  
But joy *comes* in the morning.  
Now in my prosperity I said,  
“I shall never be moved.”  
LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong;  
You hid Your face, *and* I was troubled.  
I cried out to You, O LORD;  
And to the Lord I made supplication:  
“What profit *is there* in my blood,  
When I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise You?  
Will it declare Your truth?  
Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me;  
LORD, be my helper!”  
You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;  
You have put off *my* sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,  
To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Psalm 30

**Psalm 30** (*Madrid: Come Christians, Join to Sing*)

We will extol Your Name!  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!  
Our foes retreat in shame –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!  
You healed us when we cried; safe shall our souls abide;  
Hell’s claim have You denied –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!

Lord, we extol Your Name!  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!  
Thanks we with joy proclaim –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!  
Anger shall not prevail; grace will for us avail;  
Day frees us from travail –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!

Firmly in You we stand –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!  
Kept by Your gracious hand –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!  
Lord, when You hide Your face, I cry to You for grace;

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Living, I'll sing Your praise –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!

Lord, hear our earnest plea –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!

And our strong Helper be –  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!

You turn our tears to song; praises to You belong.

Thanks is our endless song!  
    You have lifted us, O Lord!

## 6 Tables Turned

Read and meditate on John 9.26, 27.

The boldness of this man is astonishing. O that all the Lord's witnesses might be as bold as he was!

*<sup>26</sup>They said to him again, "But how did this occur? What did He do to you? How did He open up your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>So to them he replied, "I have explained to you already, but you did not listen. Do you want to hear it once again? Do you want to become disciples of Him, too?"*

- John 9.26, 27

*Reflect*

1. The Pharisees returned to the question of method: "How did He do this?" Did they really want to know how He did this, or did they ask this for some other reason? Complete the following brief prayer: *I know, Lord, that people may ask me questions about the Gospel I simply can't answer. Help me to...*
2. As I read verse 27, it seems to me the blind-man-now-healed has resigned himself to the inevitable. Now, instead of being very careful and succinct in his answers, he goes on the attack. What was he risking by doing this? *Sharing the Good News can be a bit risky at times, Lord, but let me remember that...*
3. He jabbed two sharp barbs under the skin of these Pharisees. First, they weren't good listeners. Was there any truth to that? Should we expect people who don't want to *hear* the truth to *listen* politely as we tell it? Why or why not? *They may never hear a word I say about You, Lord, but...*
4. Second, he charged them with wanting to be Jesus' disciples! Thus he punched his ticket out of the community (v. 35). He was willing to risk being ostracized for the sake of the truth. Are you? *Make me willing, Lord, to...*
5. Some might think this beggar overstepped the bounds of decency by getting up in the Pharisees' grill like this. What do you think? Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

*Summary*

"Do you see how boldly the beggar speaks with the scribes and Pharisees? It shows how strong truth is and how weak falsehood is. Truth, though it grasps only ordinary people, makes them to appear glorious; falsehood, even when it is among the strong, shows them to be weak. What he says is like this: you do not pay attention to my words; therefore, I will no longer speak or answer you when you question me continually to no purpose. You do not want to hear in order to learn but so that you can lay insults over my words." *John Chrysostom (#44-407 AD)*

Can you see how this man became *bolder* the more they challenged his testimony? Should you expect the same to be true for yourself? Explain.

*Closing Prayer*

The LORD reigns;  
Let the earth rejoice;  
Let the multitude of isles be glad!  
Clouds and darkness surround Him;

Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of His throne.  
A fire goes before Him,  
And burns up His enemies round about.  
His lightnings light the world;  
The earth sees and trembles.  
The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD,  
At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.  
The heavens declare His righteousness,  
And all the peoples see His glory.  
Let all be put to shame who serve carved images,  
Who boast of idols.  
Worship Him, all *you* gods.  
Zion hears and is glad,  
And the daughters of Judah rejoice  
Because of Your judgments, O LORD.  
For You, LORD, *are* most high above all the earth;  
You are exalted far above all gods.  
You who love the LORD, hate evil!  
He preserves the souls of His saints;  
He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 97.1-10

**Psalm 97.1, 6, 9-12** (*Darwall: Rejoice, the Lord is King!*)  
Rejoice, the Lord is King! O earth, lift up your voice;  
Be glad, you islands, shout and sing: Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Beyond, above all gods and nations be exalted, God of love!

The heav'ns above declare His glorious righteousness;  
And tribes and peoples everywhere His Name confess.  
Beyond, above all gods and nations be exalted, God of love!

All you who love the Lord, despise sin's wicked ways!  
Praise Him Who guides us by His Word through all our days.  
Beyond, above all gods and nations be exalted, God of love!

## 7 Clear and Undeniable

*Read and meditate on John 9.13-27.*

Remember: This man was *beggar*. He had been *blind from birth*. He stood before the highest religious council in all Israel, judges who could throw him out of the community and leave him with no connections, no support, and no prospects. It's good to keep this in mind.

*<sup>13</sup>They brought unto the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>It was the Sabbath when his eyes were healed, when Jesus made the clay and he received his sight. <sup>15</sup>So right away, the Pharisees inquired concerning how he had received his sight. "I'll tell you how," he said, "He put clay on my eyes. I went away and washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>And then the Pharisees replied, "This Man has not been sent from God, because, whereas He ought to keep the Sabbath, He does not." "But how," asked others, "can a sinner do what now we see this Man has done, these many signs?" And so there was division. <sup>17</sup>To the blind man once again they said, "What do you say about Him, since He healed your eyes the way you say He did?" "I think that He must be a prophet," he replied. <sup>18</sup>They doubted he had been blind and received his sight, and so they called his parents in, that they might know if it were so. <sup>19</sup>They asked them, "Is this man your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>They answered them, "We know he is our son, and was born blind, <sup>21</sup>although we do not know by what means he now sees, or who it was who healed his eyes. Look, he is old enough to answer. Ask him. He will tell you." <sup>22</sup>For they feared the Pharisees, for they had made it clear, that anyone confessing Him as Christ was to be shunned, and put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore they said, "He is of age; ask Him." <sup>24</sup>Once more they called him in and said to him, "We know this Sabbath-breaker is a sinner. So give God the glory!" <sup>25</sup>But he answered, "I do not know if this Man's a sinner. I know only this: I once was blind, but now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him again, "But how did this occur? What did He do to you? How did He open up your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>So to them he replied, "I have explained to you already, but you did not listen. Do you want to hear it once again? Do you want to become disciples of Him, too?"*

- John 9.13-27

*Reflect*

1. Let's think about giving our testimony. Why can this be a somewhat scary proposition? Do we need to be afraid? Complete this prayer: *Lord, You are with me always, and You have promised to give me power to be Your witness; so...*

2. Your testimony is simply you telling someone else about your experience with Jesus. Do you think other people would be willing to hear about your experience of Jesus? Why or why not? *Draw me nearer, Lord Jesus, and let me know more of Your presence and power, so that I...*

3. In sharing your testimony, the simpler and more succinct you can be, the better. Don't get sidetracked into gory details or theological minutiae. Have a central theme or idea – "I was blind, now I see" – and share your experience of Jesus around that. What would the central theme or idea of your testimony be? *Remind me, Lord, of all that You have done for me, and let me...*

4. You should expect that the more you give your testimony, the more confident you will feel about it. Why? Is this just you being braver, or the Lord infusing you with His power? Explain. *Thank You, Lord, that Your power is available to help me...*

5. People who hear your testimony can mock you, deny that your story is true, try to explain your experience away, or try to undermine your testimony by tying you in knots around details you can't explain. However, some people might want to hear more of your story. How would you go from sharing your testimony to telling the Gospel? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"He was indignant now at the obstinacy of the Jews. Now that he is no longer blind himself, he can no longer tolerate their blindness either." *Augustine (354-430 AD)*

Share your testimony about Jesus with another Christian, and ask him to share his with you.

*Closing Prayer*

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!  
For He has done marvelous things;  
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.  
The LORD has made known His salvation;  
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;  
Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.  
Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
With the harp and the sound of a psalm,  
With trumpets and the sound of a horn;  
Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.  
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,  
The world and those who dwell in it;  
Let the rivers clap *their* hands;  
Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,  
For He is coming to judge the earth.  
With righteousness He shall judge the world,

And the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98.1-9

**Psalm 98.1-9** (*Duke Street: Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord*)

Come, let us sing unto the Lord new songs of praise with one accord!

Wonderful things our God has done: Jesus has our salvation won!

Now is God's saving mercy known; His glory to the world is shown.

Faithful and kind is God our Lord; earth has the Name of Jesus heard.

Raise to the Lord your loudest voice! Break forth and sing! Rejoice! Rejoice

Praise, praise to You our God and King, with all our hearts and strength we bring!

Now let the whole creation 'round burst into song with joyous sound!

Jesus will come to judge the earth; let all proclaim His matchless worth!

*The Gospel of John: John 9.13-27*

*Questions for reflection or discussion*

1. What's the most important lesson about giving a testimony for Jesus you have learned from this story?
2. Should we be rattled by people who challenge our testimony? How should we respond when they do?
3. This man faced severe consequences for standing firm on his testimony. What's the worst that could happen to you if when you share your testimony with someone?
4. How can Christians help one another to be more consistent in sharing their testimony?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from John 9.13-27? How are you putting that lesson to work in your walk with and work for the Lord?

*Items for prayer:*

The Fellowship of Ailbe

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Thank you.