



## Sermon Study Guide

*The Jesus You Need: The Prophet*  
*John 9:8-34*  
*Sunday, February 24, 13*

### Introduction

- Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyred in AD 258 for refusing to worship the Roman gods. We hear stories of martyrs but don't think they apply to us. But, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, the Christian life is a call to come, and die.
- You won't lay down your life for Christ if you think you are the center of the universe. You will if you are convinced Christ is the center.
- Main point of John 9:8-24, *to be changed by Christ is to stand for Christ.*

### Scene I: Jesus is named (READ John 9:8-12)

- The beggar's neighbors are confused when they see him. He was once blind!
- Why was it dangerous for the beggar to name Jesus? (See John 7:1)
- Simply letting people in your life know you are a Christian isn't evangelism, but it is a start. What can you do to be better known as a Christian in your various spheres of influence?

### Scene II: Jesus is honored (READ John 9:13-17)

- The neighbors know they've seen something strange; take the beggar to the religious leaders.
- The healing took place on the Sabbath. Some of the Pharisees objected to the work that led to the miracle—the making of mud. If Jesus broke the Law, he is a sinner (see v. 16).
- The Pharisees are divided. Why do some question whether Jesus is a sinner? (see v. 16)
- The Pharisees, by and large, don't want to admit that Jesus is sent from God. The beggar, in contrast, calls Jesus a prophet. He honored God by speaking truth about God.
  - Prophets were God's ambassadors who spoke the Word of God.
  - The people of Israel had a two-fold expectation regarding prophets. First, they expected more prophets to come and speak God's word to them. Second, they expected a great prophet, like Moses, to come (Deut. 18:15-22). Jesus is that prophet (see Acts 3).
- The Christian can say that Jesus is his/her prophet. We *must* listen to him.
  - Devote yourself to the word of Christ (see Col. 3:16). Describe your daily, devotional routine. What does quality time in the word of Christ look like for you? Do you go to Sunday school regularly? Do you find it more beneficial to sit and listen to Sunday school conversations about Scripture, or do you like to participate? Why or why not? If you are a parent, how can you model devotion to the word of Christ for your kids?
  - Devote yourself to Christ, the Word (see John 1:1). We don't study the Bible to get smarter, but to know God better. Our devotion to Christ is what makes studying the Bible sweet (see Psalms 119:103; 34:8). If God is alive to us, his Word will be alive to us. How do you handle seasons where Bible study is dry and boring? What can you do to get the most out of Bible study?

### Scene III: Jesus is ignored (READ John 9:18-23)

- The Pharisees are looking for a way to discredit Jesus. The best way is to debunk the miracle of 9:7. They examine the beggar's parents to confirm the beggar really was born blind.
- But the parents can't deny their son was born blind or that he can now see. They can, however, refuse to give credit to Jesus. Why? (Hint: see 9:22)
- So far, the beggar has named and honored Jesus; the parents have ignored him.
  - Who do you relate to more: the beggar or Jesus?
  - If you struggle to name and honor Christ, meditate upon 2 Tim. 1:6-8.
  - What have you appreciated about our Sunday evening service where we often share about evangelistic opportunities? Has it helped you in your evangelism?

### Scene IV: Jesus is followed (READ John 9:24-34)

- When the Pharisees tell the beggar to give God glory, they really mean, "Fess up and stop lying!" They won't give up trying to discredit the beggar and Jesus.
- The beggar refuses to engage in a theological conversation about whether Jesus broke the Sabbath Law. The beggar simply asserts, "though I was blind, I now see" (9:25). This is his testimony?
  - How does his response encourage you?
  - Have you ever written out your testimony? If not, try it! Make sure to include four parts: First, your life before Christ. Second, how the gospel came to you. Third, what the gospel is. Fourth, how the gospel changed you.
- How do the Pharisees defend themselves when the beggar sarcastically asks if they, also, want to become disciples of Jesus? (see vv. 28-29)
- The beggar stands up for Jesus (vv. 30-33) even though it cost him dearly (v. 34).
- Be willing to stand for Christ, no matter the cost:
  - Will you stand for Christ against your sin? On a daily basis, battles against sin are our most serious challenges. It takes God-given conviction and courage to choose Christ and resist temptation. Very practically, what helps you the most in the battle against temptation?
  - Will you stand for Christ against fear? What keeps you from being more evangelistic? Is it a fear of seeming overzealous? Is it a fear of being unable to defend the faith? How can the example of the beggar help you overcome these fears?
  - Will you stand for Christ *because* he stood for you? We never learn the beggar's name. Maybe John left it out on purpose, to remind us that we have a lot in common with that beggar. We too, were needy, unable to stand for Christ until Christ stood for us at Calvary.

### Conclusion

- Before his death, Cyprian encourage believers with these words: "[T]he one peaceful and trustworthy tranquillity [sic], the one solid and firm and constant security, is this, for a man to withdraw from these eddies of a distracting world, and, anchored on the ground of the harbour of salvation, to lift his eyes from earth to heaven."
- The beggar had to be changed by Christ (eyes opened) before he could stand for Christ. The same is true for us.
  - How do you remind yourself that you are "anchored on the ground of the harbour of salvation"?
  - What does it mean to lift *your* eyes from earth to heaven? What does this look like?