

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD AND JUDGMENT

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March 13, 2022

John 9:39-41

1. Over the next several weeks we will be focusing on John 9:39-10:21, and our focus will be on two claims Jesus made in this passage.
  - a. "I am the door of the sheep." 7
  - b. "I am the good shepherd." 11
2. Today, to introduce this section, we will focus on John 9:39-41.
3. Last week we saw that a physically and spiritually blind man was granted both physical and spiritual sight.
4. His circumstances and his response to Jesus provided a powerful illustration of spiritual truth.
  - a. He was blind and he knew it.
  - b. Therefore he recognized his need and was ready and willing to obey and respond to Jesus' command to go and wash in the pool of Siloam.
  - c. His obedient response demonstrated a measure of faith and led to his physical and spiritual healing, and his growing insight into the person of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: Many people profess to be believers in Jesus Christ, but their lives deny the reality of their profession because they do not do what Jesus tells them to do.
5. The Pharisees, on the other hand, were spiritually blind but did not know it.
  - a. Because they thought they could see they resisted the truth when they were exposed to it.
  - b. Their refusal to recognize and acknowledge their true spiritual condition led to deeper darkness.
  - c. Because of their blindness they rejected both Jesus and the man in whose life Jesus had accomplished a great work.
6. I think it is possible that as Jesus continued to speak the formerly blind man remained in His presence as a powerful object lesson.

### I. An apparent contradiction. 39

- A. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world..."
- B. In John 3:17 He told Nicodemus, "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."
- C. He was not contradicting Himself as some might think.
- D. He did not come to act as judge, but His coming did create a crisis in that people's response to Him would determine their eternal destiny.
- E. Three passages come to mind.

#### 1. Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him. 10 Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "**It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.** 13 "But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for **I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.**"

NOTE: Jesus is the Great Physician, but they who view themselves as spiritually healthy are not going to look to Him for healing.

2. John 3:17-21

"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 **"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.** 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

NOTE: Jesus is the Light of the World, but those who think they see will not come to the Light.

3. John 12:44-50

And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. 46 "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. 47 **"If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.** 48 **"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.** 49 "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. 50 "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

NOTE: Jesus is the Truth, but many reject Him based on a false understanding of what constitutes truth.

F. You can put people in two categories: those who have come to know that they are sick, walking in darkness, and blind, and those who do not know their true spiritual condition.

G. Those who recognize their predicament are candidates for eternal life.

H. Those who do not recognize their predicament stand judged already.

## II. A rhetorical question. 40

A. The Pharisees present asked the question, "We are not blind too, are we?"

B. I say it was a rhetorical question because they thought that they knew the answer.

C. If they really understood what Jesus was talking about they would not have had to ask the question.

NOTE: Today many will be exposed to the truth of God's Word, and yet they will not benefit at all, because they falsely believe themselves to be rightly related to God. Matthew 7:21-24

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.** 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' 24

**"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock."**

NOTE: The faith that saves is expressed through obedience to the will of God.

### **III. A statement of fact. 41**

A. "If you were blind, you would have no sin..."

"If you recognized that you were blind you would have no sin, because you would acknowledge you blindness, turn to Me, and receive spiritual insight leading to the forgiveness of your sin."

B. "...but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains (unforgiven)."

### **APPLICATION**

1. How sad:

- a. To need a physician and not know it.
- b. To be exposed to the Light and hide from it.
- c. To be blind and ignorant of it.

2. Through repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we find Jesus to be the Great Physician, the Light of the World, and the Giver of Sight to the Blind.

3. How blessed it is to know Him in truth.

4. If we do our lives will testify to that fact.