

## **BLIND MAN'S TRIAL**

Tuesday, February 6

Reading: John 9:13-23

**John 9:16** *Some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.*

To try to get to the bottom of what has happened to this former blind man, his friends and neighbors take him to the Pharisees who were in charge of the synagogues, the places of worship. These men hated Jesus and had already determined that He was a sinner. The Pharisees care nothing that this man's suffering is over. Their chief concern was that Jesus broke their Sabbath rules. But this extraordinary miracle has made some of the leaders question their previous opinion of Jesus, so they asked the blind man his opinion. In response, the former blind man conveys his belief that Jesus must be a prophet. Only One who served God could open the eyes of a man born blind.

The Pharisees cannot accept this answer and decide the man must be lying and was never really blind! They call in his parents for verification. Though the parents obviously knew who had given their son back his sight, they were afraid of standing up for Jesus before these hostile religious leaders. They would not risk being thrown out of the synagogue and ostracized from the community for Jesus. Instead, they place the burden of testimony back on their son.

**LESSON ONE:** "Rules or Relationship." The Pharisees were so caught up in their list of rules that they completely ignored the great miracle Jesus had just performed. They were judging Jesus by their manmade standards and not seeing Jesus for who He really was. We can miss what Jesus is doing if we focus only on a list of 'do's and don'ts' and call that "following Jesus." We will end up as blind as the Pharisees if we don't base our faith on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ – knowing Who He is! Does your faith consist merely of a bunch of rules to follow or is it based on a daily, personal, intimate relationship with the Son of God?

**LESSON TWO:** "Folding Under Pressure." The blind man's parents knew the truth but were afraid to stand up under confrontation. They left it to their son to set the record straight. Sometimes we fold under pressure as well. We fail to witness for Jesus and excuse our cowardice by saying "Someone else will do it!" Standing for Christ in a hostile world can be scary, but God has given us the Holy Spirit to strengthen and empower us. Where might God be calling you to stand up for Him? How will you respond when given the opportunity to say, "I believe in Jesus as my Savior and Lord"?