International Bible Lesson
International Bible Study Commentary
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Spiritual Blindness and Glorifying God
John 9:24-34

They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. (John 9:34—KJV).

They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out. (John 9:34—NASB).

The Pharisees answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us" And they drove him out (John 9:34—NRSV).

When the Pharisees told the man that Jesus healed to give glory to God, they wanted him to tell them the truth. But they wanted him to give glory to God as they understood God instead of giving any glory to Jesus, the Son of God, who healed the man. In Joshua 7:19, we see how Joshua asked Achan, the thief, to tell the truth, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and make confession to him. Tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." Joshua had a right to know and learn the truth from Achan. Joshua used "give glory to God," as courts sometimes require a witness to swear that they will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

The Pharisees remained spiritually blind, while the formerly blind man could see clearly physically and spiritually. The Pharisees proved they did not know and love God because despite all the evidence before them from reliable witnesses and from the truthful testimony of Jesus, they refused to glorify God. Instead of giving God the glory, the Pharisees said they knew Jesus, the Son of God, was a sinner. They called Jesus a sinner because Jesus obeyed His Father and the Law of God, not the laws and traditions of the Pharisees that invalidated the Law of Love. In their unloving spiritual blindness, they never praised God for the miraculous healing of the man born blind nor did they tell the man they were pleased he had regained his eyesight. They only saw him as a sinner.

Thinking Further

1. How did the Pharisees expect this man to give glory to God? Did he? How do we give glory to God?

2. How did the Pharisees know Jesus was a sinner?

3. How did the man challenge the Pharisees when they kept asking his questions? What does his answer tell you about the man?

4. What did the Pharisees accuse the man of being? What did they say they were?

5. Who did the man say God listens to? How did the Pharisees answer him?

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