International Bible Lesson
International Bible Study Commentary
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

The Punishment for Truth Telling
John 9:24-34

The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes (John 9:30—KJV).

The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes" (John 9:30—NASB).

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes" (John 9:30—NRSV).

Some remain so prejudiced that they deny overwhelming evidence and refuse to reason with those they disagree with to learn the truth and right from wrong. Such were the Pharisees. After confronting the man born blind that Jesus healed, and after interrogating many witnesses that the man had indeed been born blind, the Pharisees reluctantly admitted his previous blindness and that Jesus had healed him. Still, they refused to believe that Jesus was a good man! No matter what Jesus said or did, or what the healed man demonstrated, the Pharisees continued to say that they knew Jesus was a sinner. Under cross-examination, the man with the opened eyes declared, "We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will" (John 9:31). Still, they refused to use sound reason, consider the evidence before them, and believe in Jesus. Then, they turned to attacking the man personally, saying, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" (John 9:34). Claiming to be Abraham's children, they attacked Jesus for being born a Samaritan. Claiming to be disciples of Moses, they attacked a man who tried to reason with them, by saying he was "born entirely in sins." No matter what truths we share with some, whether personal, scientific, or biblical; no matter how faultless our logic or flawless our evidence, some still refuse to reason. Instead, they think of ways to destroy the truth-tellers. As punishment for truth telling, the Pharisees cast the man out of the synagogue and eventually killed Jesus.

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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