

BLINDED BY...

12/31/2023 PM

INTRO.:

A. Read Text: John 9:1-41.

B. Regarding the text:

1. TV commercial: "Cleaner than Clean"; "Whiter than white".
2. Blind man's observers were indeed, "blinder than blind".

C. They could not see that Jesus is Divine.

1. The evidence is plain enough for anyone to see (vs. 25, 31-32, 35-38).
2. The evidence declared the deity of Christ (John 20:30-31).

D. The truth was missed because they were the blind ones.

1. Like many today (Matt. 13:15).
2. This blindness hinders salvation (Mark 4:12).

I. FEAR.

A. Afraid of deciding for oneself.

1. The neighbors had the evidence but carried him to Pharisees (vs. 8-12).
2. People have the Scriptures but afraid to study for selves (Acts 17:11).
 - 1) Does not mean one can never seek help (Acts 8:31).
 - 2) Does not mean one should despise leadership (1 Thess. 5:12-13).
 - 3) We should not let others study and supply answers for us.
 - 4) Scripture is not too complicated to understand.

B. Fear of being "put out" (shunned) by others.

1. Parents were afraid of being "put out of the synagogue" (vs. 18-23).
2. Today some fail to "contend for the faith" because of this same fear.

II. TRADITION.

A. Pharisees blinded by traditional (not scriptural) view of Sabbath. (vs. 16, 24).

B. People cannot see plain teaching because conflicts with their traditional view.

1. Tradition is not bad, depends on its source (2 Thess. 3:6).
2. Human tradition without religious significance not necessarily bad.
3. Human tradition in religious must not be our guide (Matt. 15:3-6).

III. PREJUDICE

A. Jews had already had their minds made up (vs. 22).

1. At first denied the miracle (vs. 18).
2. Then denied that Jesus performed it (vs. 24).
3. Anything but give up their prejudiced conclusion.

B. People today miss truth because they have already decided what they will do.

IV. PRIDE

A. Pharisees took pride in their tradition and heritage (vs. 28-29).

1. Some of these things are not wrong.
2. Yet traditions can keep us from accepting truth.

B. Pharisees took pride in their position (vs. 34).

1. They felt they were better than the man who had been blind (Pro. 26:12; Luke 18:11).
2. Diotrophes loved to have the preeminence (3 John 9). He loved to be the head of all things, to rule, to lord it over others.
3. Esther 3:5; Proverbs 16:18.

V. CONCLUSION:

A. All need to be careful to honestly weigh evidence and obey truth.

B. All need to form strong convictions.