

***“One Thing I Know!”***  
***John 9:17-25***

**Introduction:**

1. As Christians:
  - We Are Facing More & More Pressure:
    - To Tone Down:
      - Our Witness For Christ - And:
        - Our Testimony Of The Truth:
          - By The World Around Us!
2. Just Last Week:
  - A Church In Florida:
    - Was Called Out For:
      - Calling On Their Members:
        - To Confirm Their Commitment To:
          - Matters Of Biblical Morality!
  - By Having Them:
    - Agree With & Affirm The Following Statement:
      - “As A Member . . . I Believe That God Creates People In His Image As Either Male Or Female, And That This Creation Is A Fixed Matter Of Human Biology, Not Individual Choice! I Believe Marriage Is Instituted By God, Not Government, Is Between One Man And One Woman, And Is The Only Context For Sexual Desire And Expression!”<sup>1</sup>
  - I Would Hope:
    - That Every True Christian & Every True Church:
      - Would Agree With & Affirm:
        - The Biblical Truths:
          - Found In This Statement!
3. But - As Can Be Expected:
  - It Caused An Uproar:
    - By The Media - And Now:
      - Even By Other:
        - Faith Leaders & Communities!
    - Who Have Felt The Need To “Apologize” On Their Behalf:
      - “To Anyone Who Has Ben Ostracized By Their Church On Account Of Their Self-Understanding Or Sexual Orientation!” (Brian Lays, Senior Pastor, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville)
  - And So - Once Again:
    - We See Devil’s Tactics:
      - To Silence The Witness & Testimony:
        - Of The Truth!
4. However - This Is Nothing New!
  - In Fact - As We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
    - To John 9 - We Will See Some Of Those Same Tactics:
      - Being Used To Put Pressure On A Man:
        - To Silence Him From Telling About:
          - The Work Of God That Was Accomplished In Him:
            - By The Lord Jesus Christ!
5. Of Course - The Man Is:
  - The Same Man We’ve Been Learning About:
    - All Throughout This Chapter!
      - The Man Who - According To 9:1:
        - “Was Blind From His Birth!”
  - And - If You Remember:
    - After Jesus Healed That Man - And:
      - Gave Him His Sight:
        - It Caused Quite A Disturbance & Division:
          - In Jerusalem That Day!
    - And - Such Will Be The Case:
      - Whenever A True Work Of God:

- Is Done!
  - But - As We Will See:
    - From The Rest Of His Story:
      - Even The Religious Leaders:
        - Who Should Have Known Better:
          - Sought To Silence The Man:
            - And His Testimony Of The Truth!
6. And So - I'd Like For Us To Begin:
  - By Reading 9:17-25!
    - So - After The Division:
      - That Was Caused By The Questions:
        - About Jesus! (9:16)
    - Starting In 9:17:
      - The Jewish Leaders:
        - Seem To Set Their Sights On The Man Himself!
      - Not Only To Get His Story Straight - But:
        - To Silence Him From Telling His Story:
          - About Jesus!
    - But - Through It All:
      - God Gave The Man:
        - What He Needed:
          - To Maintain His Testimony!
7. And - As We Go Through These Verses Together:
  - We Will Find Three Tactics:
    - The World Will Often Try To Use:
      - To Silence The Witness & Testimony:
        - Of Those Who Have Experienced:
          - A True Work Of God:
            - In Their Lives!
    - But - We Will Also See:
      - What *We* Need From The Lord:
        - In The Face Of These Tactics!
          - So That - By God's Grace:
            - We Might Have A Testimony:
              - That Is "Faithful And True!"
  - 8. The First Way:
    - That The World May Try:
      - To Silence Our Witness For Christ:
        - Is Through:
  - 1. ***Suspicion!***
    - Just Like The Suspicion That:
      - The Pharisees Cast Upon:
        - The Blind Man - And Even:
          - His Parents - Because Of:
            - The Miraculous Work That God Had Done:
              - In His Life!
      - We Can See This Suspicion:
        - Back In 9:17-18 - Where:
          - It Seems Like:
            - A Some-What Formal Trial Has Commenced:
              - Concerning The Work Of Jesus & The Witness Of The Man!
          - Because - They Continue To:
            - Question Him:
              - 9:17a - "They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes?"
          - Of Course - His Answer:
            - Was Based On The Limited Knowledge:
              - He Had Of Jesus!

- Acc. To 9:17 - “He Said, He Is A Prophet!”
- But - Already - God Was Starting To:
  - Open This Man’s Eyes Wider:
    - To See More Clearly:
      - Who Jesus Really Was!
- And Yet - Even Before The Man:
  - Got His Answer Out Of His Mouth:
    - We Are Told In 9:18:
      - “But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight!”
- And So - We See From The Very Beginning:
  - That These “Jews” - Or:
    - Jewish Leaders - Which Likely:
      - Included The Same Pharisees That We Met Earlier!
      - They Were:
- Suspicious Of The Man’s Connection:
  - To Jesus!
    - We Find This In The Question:
      - “What Sayest Thou Of Him?”
  - Since - They Really Did Not Believe:
    - A Miracle Took Place:
      - There Had To Be Another Reason:
        - Why The Man Claimed:
          - One Did!
  - And - His Answer To Their Question:
    - Might Make All The Difference!
      - Perhaps It Was All A Ruse!
      - Perhaps It Was All Part Of A Plan:
        - To Get Even More People:
          - To Follow Jesus!
      - This Might Have All Been About:
        - Fame & Fortune:
          - Or Some Other Reason!
    - And - If The Man Was In On It:
      - His Answer Could Give Them More:
        - To Accuse Jesus Of - And Even:
          - Incriminate Himself!
  - So - They Were Suspicious:
    - Of The Man’s Connection To Jesus!
      - But - They Were Also:
  - Suspicious Of The Man’s Condition:
    - Before He Met Jesus!
      - We Find This Again:
        - In 9:18 - Where John Tells Us That:
          - “The Jews Did Not Believe Concerning Him, That He Had Been Blind!”
      - Was He Really Blind?
        - Was He Completely Blind?
          - Was He Truly Blind From Birth?
    - If Any Of These Things:
      - Could Be Disproved:
        - His Entire Testimony About Jesus:
          - And What He Did For Him:
            - Could Be Thrown Out!
    - So - They Were Suspicious:
      - Of The Man’s Condition!
        - But - Even More - They Were:
  - Suspicious Of The Man’s Change!
    - The Change He Claimed Was Done By Jesus!

- Because - They Did Not Believe:
  - 9:18 - That He Had - “Received His Sight!”
- So - The Jews Were Suspicious:
  - Of Everything That The Man Claimed:
    - About Himself!
  - And - This Was All Done:
    - To Silence Him - And:
      - His Testimony About Jesus:
        - That He Was “A Prophet!”
        - A True Man Of God!
        - And What He Did For Him!
  - And - This Is Still:
    - What The World Will Try To Do:
      - To Silence The Witness:
        - Of God’s True People!
    - They Will Try To Cause:
      - Suspicion - In The Minds:
        - Of Others - About The Word & Work Of God!
    - So That - If They Can’t:
      - Stop Your Mouth From Speaking:
        - They Can Plug Up The Ears Of Others From Hearing:
          - What You Have To Say!
- We Need To Pray To The Lord:
  - To Give Us Greater Conviction:
    - About The Truth God Gives To Us:
      - In His Word! After All:
        - “Thy Word Is Truth!” (17:17)
  - So - Even In The Face Of The Suspicion & Aspersions:
    - That The World Will Cast Upon Us:
      - By God’s Grace - We Must Maintain:
        - Our Testimony Of The Truth!
        - And - Our Witness For Christ!
  - However - Another Way:
    - That The World Will Often Try:
      - To Silence Our Testimony:
        - Is Through:

## 2. *Shame!*

- That Is - It Will Try To Shame Us:
  - Into Recanting Our Testimony - Or:
    - At Least - To Muffle It!
      - And This Is What We Can See Taking Place Next - In 9:18b-21!
  - When - The Blind Man’s Own Parents:
    - Are Summoned To This Hearing:
      - To Answer Some Questions About Their Son!
  - “Until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. / And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? / His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: / But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself!”
    - The Suspicion The Jews Had:
      - Toward The Blind Man - Seems To:
        - Extend Further:
          - To His Parents As Well!
    - That Is - If They Were:
      - His Parents At All!
        - After All - In 9:19 - The Pharisees Call Their Own Testimony Into Question - By Asking:
          - “Is This Your Son, Who Ye Say Was Born Blind?”
  - Perhaps The Jewish Leaders:

- Thought They Were In On This Too!
  - Was This All A Big Conspiracy - To Convince People That Jesus Was:
    - The Messiah / The Christ?
- So - They Question The Association:
  - They Had With The Man In Question!
    - 9:19 - "Is This Your Son?"
- They Question The Affliction:
  - Of The Man They Claimed Was Their Son!
    - 9:19 - "Who Ye Say Was Born Blind?"
- They Question The Account:
  - Of The Man:
    - 9:19 - "How Then Doth He See?"
- They Asked These Questions:
  - Not Because They Were Seeking Answers:
    - But Because They:
      - Were Suspicious Of:
        - What Happened That Day!
      - And Because They:
        - Wanted To Shame Anyone:
          - Who Was Involved In The Affairs Of That Day!
      - And - They Would Do Anything To:
        - Discredit The Man - So That Ultimately:
          - They Could Get To Jesus!
  - And - Sadly - Their Tactic Of Shame:
    - Seems To Work:
      - On The Parents Of The Blind Man!
    - Because - Even Though:
      - They Answer The First Two Questions:
        - In A Clear & Straightforward Way:
          - 9:20 - "We Know That This Is Our Son, And That He Was Born Blind!"
      - In Their Answer To:
        - The Third Question:
          - They Sought To Distance Themselves From Their Own Son:
            - As Far As They Could - And From Jesus Himself!
      - 9:21 - "But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself!"
  - So - Parents Of The Man Born Blind:
    - Caved Under The Pressure:
      - Of Shame!
    - All So That They:
      - Could Keep Their Name & Reputation:
        - In The Community!
          - As John Will Explain In The Next Couple Of Verses!
  - But - This Is Also:
    - What The World Will Try To Do:
      - To Silence The Witness:
        - Of Christians!
    - They Will Try To:
      - Shame You - In Order To:
        - Silence Your Testimony!
    - To Make You Feel Like:
      - We Are Out Of Step With:
        - The Norms Of Society!
          - And That - Our Beliefs Are Just Too Old Fashioned!
  - And That Is Why We Need To Pray Even More:
    - For The Lord To Give Us:
      - Courage - To Be A Witness For The Lord:
        - In The Midst Of A World That Is Hostile To The True Word Of God & Gospel

Of Jesus Christ!

- But - In These Verses:
  - We Find Even Another Way:
    - That The World Will Try:
      - To Silence Our Testimony!
      - And That Is Through:

3. **Scaring:**

- And Frightening:
  - Those Who Would Dare To:
    - “Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus!”
      - And - This Is What We Find Next:
        - In John’s Explanation In 9:22-23:
          - As To Why The Man’s Parents Answered The Way They Did!
- It Was Because:
  - Of Shame & Fear!
    - 9:22-23 - “These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. / Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him!”
- At This Special Hearing:
  - That Was Called By The Pharisees:
    - Everyone Knew:
      - Why They Were There!
    - Everyone Knew:
      - Who This Was All About!
- Even The Parents:
  - Of The Blind Man!
    - And - John Wrote These Verses:
      - Not As An Excuse:
        - But As An Explanation!
  - And - To Show Us:
    - The Kind Of “Scare Tactics” That:
      - The World May Try To Use:
        - To Silence Those Who:
          - Speak Out For Christ!
- They Tried To Scare The People:
  - Through Intimidation!
    - Because - After All - They Were:
      - The Experts About These Matters!
    - And - To Question Them:
      - And Their Authority:
        - Was To Question God:
          - And His Authority!
  - And - Whatever Disagreement & Division:
    - They Might Have Had Back In 9:16:
      - Is Now Gone!
    - Because - By This Time:
      - 9:22 - They “Had Agreed Already!”
        - About What They Thought About Jesus & What Should Be Done About Jesus!
  - This Was Spiritual Abuse!
    - And It Worked! To Silence:
      - Many Who Had Seen:
        - The Wonderful Works Of God:
          - Through Jesus!
  - Also - They Tried To Scare The People:
    - Through Isolation!
      - Because - The Word Got Out:
        - 9:22 - “That if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue!”

- This Kind Of Punishment:
  - Would Have Been A Severe Blow:
    - Both Spiritually & Socially!
  - Because - They Could Be Banned:
    - From Both:
      - Worship & Fellowship:
        - With Their Friends & Family!
- And - This Is Why:
  - The Parents Of The Blind Man:
    - Said What They Did!
      - To Save Face:
        - In Their Community! And:
      - To Save Themselves:
        - From This Fate!
    - The Jewish Leaders Scared Them:
      - Into Submission & Silence!
  - It Is Sad, But True:
    - That Fear Has Kept Many:
      - From Associating Themselves:
        - From A True Work Of God!
  - And Yet - This Is Still:
    - A Favorite Way The World:
      - Tries To Silence:
        - The Witness & Testimony:
          - Of True Believers In Christ!
    - And - This Will Be The Case:
      - Even Until The Return:
        - Of Our Lord From Heaven:
          - At The End Of This Age!
  - We Need The Lord:
    - To Give Us Even More:
      - Clarity - In Our Testimony:
        - For The Lord!
      - The Testimony:
        - Of Our Words - And:
          - Of Our Lives!

### **Conclusion:**

1. And Yet - Even After:
  - All These Attempts:
    - To Silence The Witness & Testimony:
      - Of That Man:
        - Who Was Born Blind!
          - Through Suspicion!
          - Through Shame!
          - Through Scare Tactics!
2. The Jewish Leaders:
  - Make One Final Attempt:
    - To Silence Him!
      - Which We Find Again In 9:24:
        - "Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise / glory: we know that this man is a sinner!"
  - So - It's Clear To Everyone By Now:
    - That Their Minds Were Made Up!
      - Jesus Had To Be:
        - A Disobedient & Deceptive Sinner!
    - And - To Associate Yourself:
      - With Jesus - Was To:
        - Admit The Same:

- About Yourself!
- 3. And Yet - What Does The Man Do?
  - By God's Grace:
    - He Sticks To The Truth!
      - And - Without Even Knowing It:
        - Provides A Testimony:
          - About The Power Of Jesus!
    - A Testimony - That Still Resounds:
      - In The Hearts Of Everyone:
        - Who Has Experienced The True Work Of God:
          - In Their Lives!
      - 9:25 - "He Answered And Said, Whether He Be A Sinner Or No, I Know Not: One Thing I Know, That, Whereas I Was Blind, Now I See!"
- 4. This Answer:
  - Is An Answer:
    - Of Conviction!
      - It Was Based On The Truth!
        - The Truth About His Past Condition:
          - He Was Blind!
        - The Truth About His Present Condition:
          - He Could See!
        - And - The Truth About The One:
          - Who Made It All Happen!
            - Jesus!
      - No Matter How The World:
        - May Try To Silence You:
          - Pray For The Same Kind Of Conviction:
            - About The Truth!
              - Even - The Gospel Truth!
          - The Truth About:
            - Your Past!
              - According To God's Word!
                - Blind & Dead In Sin - Living For Self!
            - The Truth About:
              - Your Present!
                - According To God's Word!
                  - Sight & Life - To Live For God!
              - And - The Truth About The One:
                - Who Made It All Happen!
                  - The Lord Jesus Christ!
                    - Through His Life & Death & Resurrection!
                - We Need To Know & Believe:
                  - The Truth - Even:
                    - The Whole Truth:
                      - With Conviction!
          - 5. But - This Man's Answer:
            - Is Also An Answer:
              - Of Great Courage!
                - After All - He Too Was Exposed:
                  - To Excommunication By:
                    - Those Jewish Leaders!
                - But - God Gave Him:
                  - The Courage To Speak The Truth:
                    - Even To Those:
                      - Who Tried To Suppress & Silence Him!
                - Pray That The Lord Will Give You:
                  - The Same Kind Of Courage:
                    - That Man Had!



- A Courage That Overcomes:
    - The Fear Of Man - Through:
      - The Right Fear & Reverence & Love For The Lord!
  - Remember - Jesus Said:
    - Matthew 10:28 - “Fear Not Them Which Kill The Body, But Are Not Able To Kill The Soul: But Rather Fear Him Which Is Able To Destroy Both Soul And Body In Hell!”
  - And - That Is Why We Need Courage!
    - To Tell The World:
      - The Words They Need To Hear Most!
        - Not What They Want To Hear!
        - Not What They Like To Hear!
        - But What They Need To Hear!
6. But - Even More - This Man’s Answer:
- Was An Answer:
    - Of Clarity!
      - It Spoke Of The Kind Of:
        - Hope & Change:
          - That Made A Real Difference:
            - In His Life!
      - “I Was Blind! Now I See!”
        - Can You Get Any Clearer Than This?
    - Pray For Clarity:
      - In Your Testimony & Witness:
        - For Christ!
          - Not Just In Your Words:
            - But In Your Life!
      - Can People See:
        - The Change That:
          - Christ Has Made In Your Life!
            - Is There A Difference?
            - Is It Noticeable!
7. If You Gave The Same Testimony:
- As That Man That Day:
    - “I Once Was Blind, But Now I See!”
      - Would People Believe You?
  - Remember - The World:
    - Will Increasingly Try To Silence:
      - Your Testimony!
        - Using The Tactics We Looked At:
          - And Even More!
  - But - The Lord Will Enable You:
    - To Witness For Him:
      - With The Conviction & Courage & Clarity:
        - That You Need!
    - Remember - Isaiah 41:10:
      - “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness!”

<sup>1</sup><https://news.yahoo.com/first-baptist-church-jacksonville-requiring-215454770.html>

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