

John 9:13-34

Responding to Miracles, pt 2 Desperate Blindness

How is John using this dialog between healed man and Pharisees?

1. To show believers how to respond to opposition...
2. To demonstrate how following Jesus will get you persecuted...
3. To expose how vigorous and ridiculous will be the opposition to your moving from unbelief to belief in Jesus...

1) The Controversy Introduced – v. 13-17

2) Desperate Tactics – v. 17-34

Tactic #1 – Discredit the Witness

- a) v. 17 – Ignore the Evidence
- b) v. 24 – Bow to Our Authority
- c) v. 28 – Guilt By Association
- d) v. 34 – You are a Sinner

Tactic #2 – Discredit the Testimony

- a) v. 18-23 – Produce Contrary Testimony
- b) v. 26 – Find Inconsistencies in Testimony

Tactic #3 – Destroy the Witness

Praxis

1. Beyond what the Pharisee's interaction with the blind man teaches us about a kind of desperate spiritual blindness in us all, what are some lessons we might learn here about opposition Christians might face and how to respond to it?
2. If such pervasive spiritual blindness resists believing in Christ, how can Christian witnesses help a person recognize this bias in themselves?
3. If primary resistance to Jesus arises not because of His coming to rescue, but to rule, how might this affect how we share the Gospel message with others?
4. Have you ever felt your sinful flesh desperately trying to discredit the witness or the testimony of one who is teaching you to how to obey Christ in a particular way? What crafty tactics does your flesh use?