

# The Gospel of John Part 49: Our Testimony in Action

## John 9:13-34



*John 9:13-34 They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 So then*

*some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 Therefore, they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." 18 Then, the Jews did not believe it of him that he was blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, 19 and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" 20 So his parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. 23 For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24 Therefore, a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." 25 He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to listen again? Do you want to become His disciples too?" 28 And they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." 30 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from, and He opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him. 32 Since the*

*beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered and said to him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out.*

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**1) Our Testimony About Jesus Becomes Bold.** The more the healed man shared his testimony with others the bolder that testimony became in his heart and mind. What started as a simple and timid statement of the facts became a bold and compelling declaration of the truth. As other people sought answers for what Jesus did in this man's life, the more he appreciated and understood the significance of who Jesus was. The man was growing in his faith the more he shared that faith with others. This is the effect that witnessing for Christ has on a person's life. Our witness keeps our hope fresh and vibrant in our lives.

**2) Our Testimony About Jesus Becomes Contagious.** As others heard and received the healed man's testimony now, they too possessed some truths about Jesus in their lives. Though his parents were afraid of what the religious rulers would do because of Jesus, they could not deny the testimony of what happened in their son's life. Now they too knew that Jesus was the one who healed their blind son and they were telling others. This truth will either become a stumbling block for them or the beginning of their eternal hope. The people in our lives today may never meet Jesus unless they receive the truth about Him from us.

**3) Our Testimony About Jesus Becomes Transformative.** In the end, the healed man's unwavering testimony drove change in his life as the people around him responded to his message. The people's response was not positive. Those that knew him doubted him. His own parents distanced themselves from him. He was ultimately excommunicated from the synagogue because of what he professed. Though all this change may appear negative, it will ultimately become positive. Because, the man will gain new friends, new family, and a new identity in Christ. The old is gone and the new is starting to come in. Just as going from blind to seeing is a radical change in the man's life, so also will be the change in people, practices, and purpose for the rest of this man's life. This is what the Christian experience is about. The more we identify with Christ in the world, the more the world around us starts to change.