

The Ultimate Priority - Worship . . . Part 4

WORSHIPPING THE SON John 9:1-41

STIMULATE

** As Jesus taught us last week about "**Worshipping the Father**", He showed us ten truths inextricably woven into the worship of our Heavenly Father, they were: God's Purpose, Paternity, Priority, Program, Plan, Provision, Pardon, Protection, Preeminence and Postscript. Which of those ten truths were new to you, challenged you, or encouraged you the most in worshipping the Father each day?

For myself, I was particularly blessed by God's Paternity (because it provides the personal relationship that I have with Him), God's Pardon (because He is worshipped when I confess my sin) and finally God's Protection (because He won't ever lead me into temptation and will always deliver me from evil!).

MOTIVATE

** As we move on now in Part 4 of "**The Ultimate Priority - Worship**", we come to one of the most significant truths of Scripture. "**Worshipping the Son**" is not only a predominant theme throughout Scripture, but as we shall see, it will be the preoccupation of all of God's creation. Both the saved and unsaved, angels and demons, even the creation itself (Isaiah 55:12) will be caught up in the worship and praise of Jesus Christ. For a wonderful blessing, please join me in John's gospel, chapter 9, verses 1-41.

Opening Prayer

Worshipping the Son

INVESTIGATE

As we approach this text, we will be dividing it into four sections. They will teach us:

- 1) **Jesus is the Light** - V. 1-12
- 2) **Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath** - V. 13-23
- 3) **Jesus is from God** - V. 24-34
- 4) **Jesus is to be worshipped** - V. 35-41

JESUS IS THE LIGHT - Read passage (V.1-5) (V.6-9) (V.10-12)

V. 1-2

** As the scene opens for us in this study, Jesus and His disciples come across a man born blind. What error in judgment do the disciples make?

That a birth defect is directly related to the sin of one's life or of one's family life.

** Does the focus of the disciple's question represent a forward or backward look at this man?

Backward! They wanted to know how he got that way.

V. 3 ** How was the perspective of Jesus different?

He shifts their attention to a forward look by saying, "...it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him" in order to help him.

**** How important were the works of God, which Jesus continually performed?**

They were the verification that He was the Truth! cf. John 10:37-38

V. 4 ** How important is it for Christians to be doing the work of the Lord while there is still time?

"WE MUST work the works of Him who sent [Jesus]..."

**** For how long?**

"...as long as it is day..." (while we are living)

"...night is coming..." (death) cf. John 19:30

V. 5 ** What phrase does Jesus use to further describe the time known as "as long as it is day"?

"While I am in the world..." Redeem the time!

**** What was Jesus to do with His time?**

He was "the light of the world" cf. John 1:4, 8:12, 12:46

V.6-7

**** How does Jesus turn the physical problem of the blind man into a demonstration of the spiritual reality of the light?**

By calling for the man's obedience and curing his blindness in the process.

V.8-12

**** How was this miracle received by those who had known the blind man all his life?**

Some believed - Verses 8,9

Some rejected - Verses 9,10,12

**** How was it received by the blind man himself?**

He believed, and for the first time in his life he "received sight". - V. 11 Jesus was the light to this man, both physically and (as we shall see) spiritually.

In this next section we are going to watch how the spiritual leaders hypocritically protected their "traditions" at the cost of missing "the works of God".

JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH - (V.13-16) (V.17-19) (V.20-23)

V.13 ** After joyfully receiving his sight, how is the life of this man effected?

He is forcibly drag before the Pharisees.

V.14 ** What do we learn about the timing of this miracle?

Jesus had performed it on the Sabbath.

** What two things did Jesus do on the Sabbath?

1) "Jesus made the clay" 2) "and opened his eyes"

V.15 ** What do the Pharisees want to know from this man?

If Jesus broke the Sabbath (V.16), they do not care about the man receiving his sight!
cf. Matthew 23:4 (Hold for future reference)

** How does the man answer the question?

With an accurate account of what happened.

V.16 ** To what conclusion did some of the Pharisees come to based on his answer?

"[Jesus]...is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

** According to this verse, what is the problem with their conclusion?

If you do not keep the Sabbath, you are a sinner. If you are a sinner, how can you "perform such signs?"

This was an ever present problem with the Pharisees, look with me at Mark's recording of this type of encounter between Jesus and the Pharisees in Mark 2:23-28.

Now back in John, chapter 9...

V.17 ** Not being able to agree among themselves, what do the Pharisees do next?

They ask this common man for his opinion. cf. V.34 The Pharisees considered themselves to be the spiritual elite, and way above the common man. cf. Matthew 23:4-7

** What was his answer?

Having never seen Jesus, this man knew "He is a prophet."

V.18 ** Did they believe his evaluation of Jesus?

No. So they called in his parents!

V.19 ** What two things did they want to know from them?

1) Is this your born blind son? 2) How does he see?

V.20-21

** What were his parents willing to answer?

Only that this was their son, who was born blind. They were unwilling to admit how he was healed.

V.22-23

**** Why did they deny the truth?**

"...if anyone should confess [Jesus] to be Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue." So they simply deferred back to their adult son saying, "He is of age; ask him."

Not only is Jesus Lord of the Sabbath, but as the questioning continues, we shall see that He is from God!

JESUS IS FROM GOD - (V.24-26) (V.27-29) (V.30-34)

V.24 ** By what contrived method do the Pharisees hope to "glorify God"?

By forcing the man who was healed to admit that Jesus was a sinner.

V.25 ** How do we see the integrity of this man?

He simply states what he knows, the truth! He still has not seen Jesus, but he knows that he is no longer blind because of what Jesus did!

V.26 ** How does the next question by the Pharisees expose their lack of integrity?

They had already asked that question (V.15), but they were not interested in the truth, so they did not hear the answer, because they were looking for a way to trap Jesus in the offense of breaking their traditions.

V.27 ** How is the man's answer different from the last time he was asked this by the Pharisees?

He challenges the integrity of the Pharisees who, "...did not listen" and then turns the tables on them by asking, "...why do you want to hear it again, you do not want to become His disciples too, do you?"

V.28 ** Did that response sit very well with the Pharisees?

No! They "reviled" him. (loidoreo - to abuse) They "abused" him by saying "You are His disciple" all the time claiming to be the disciples of Moses.

V.29 ** What truth do the Pharisees relate to Moses?

That God has spoken to Moses!

**** What did they not know about Jesus?**

"...we do not know where He is from."

V.30 ** How did that sit with the "spiritually" common man, who stood before these pious Pharisees?

He was amazed (and very sarcastic!), in light of the miracle performed! The blind man could see the truth about where Jesus was from, but the sighted men were blind!

cf. John 3:2, 6:38, 7:28, 8:42, 13:3-4

V.31-33

****** Having turn the tables, who now becomes the teacher?

The common man who had been healed. He teaches them four emphatic truths: 1) God does not hear sinners 2) If anyone is God fearing, and does His will, He hears him 3) Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind (and that was a Messianic promise - Isaiah 35:5 and 4) If Jesus were not of God, He could do nothing.

V.34 ** How do the Pharisees receive these truths?

They do not! They once again fall back on their spiritual pride and pronounced that this man is a sinner, casting him out of their presence and the religious fellowship of Israel.

Finally, let's look at the fourth section of this chapter...

JESUS IS TO BE WORSHIPPED - (V.35-37) (V.38-39) (V.40-41)

V.35 ** Fully understanding the tremendous impact of being put out of the fellowship of Israel, what does Jesus do when He hears that this has happened to the one He had healed?

He went looking for him, and when Jesus finds him He asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" This term is used at least 80 times in the gospels, and except for John 12:34 where people are asking who the Son of Man is, the term is only used by Jesus. It is His self-designation and comes from the Messianic promise of Daniel 7:13-14.

V.36 ** How does this common man respond to the Lord?

With openness, sincerity and reverence! You can hear the longing and anticipation in his words.

V.38 ** When Jesus reveals Himself to this man, what is his response? (Which by the way is the only acceptable response that anyone is to have to the Lord!)

He worshipped Him! Jesus is to be worshipped!

Matthew 2:2 - The wise men

Matthew 9:18 - The synagogue official

Matthew 14:33 - The disciples

Mark 3:11 - Demons

Revelation 5:12-14 - The Hosts of Heaven

Philippians 2:9-11 - Every knee should bow

V.39 ** How does Jesus summarize the spiritual significance of what had taken place physically?

The judgment of God is that those who do not see, but are willing to repent, will be given spiritual sight. However, those who are proud, though they can see physically, will be blinded spiritually.

V.40 ** How did the Pharisees respond to that terrible news?

"You are not talking about us, are You?"

V.41 ** What is the tragic answer?

Yes, as long as they were depending upon their own righteousness, their sin would remain.

EXTRICATE

** What prevented the Pharisees from "Worshipping the Son"?

- 1) Spiritual arrogance 2) Lack of integrity 3) Unable to see that Jesus was the Light
- 4) Not recognizing Him as Lord of the Sabbath 5) Not knowing that Jesus was sent from God

DELINEATE

** How many of these spiritual errors are we capable of falling into as a Christian?

All of them! If we live our life in disobedience to His Word and Will, we are making the same error.

EVALUATE

** Do you find that you are "**Worshipping the Son**" by keeping your daily lifestyle in submission to the Lord Jesus Christ? Can you be like the man who said, "Lord, I believe" and he worshipped Him?

ACTIVATE

** Dear Lord Jesus, forgive my spiritual arrogance when I have lived indifferently to the pain that you have suffered for me. Teach me to worship you by letting "the word of Christ richly dwell within me" and then obeying your expressed will for my life. Amen!

Closing Prayer