

## John 9:24-34

So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, “God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner.”

<sup>25</sup> “I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!”

<sup>26</sup> “But what did he do?” they asked. “How did he heal you?”

<sup>27</sup> “Look!” the man exclaimed. “I told you once. Didn’t you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?”

<sup>28</sup> Then they cursed him and said, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup>We know God spoke to Moses, but we don’t even know where this man comes from.”

<sup>30</sup> “Why, that’s very strange!” the man replied. “He healed my eyes, and yet you don’t know where he comes from? <sup>31</sup>We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. <sup>32</sup>Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he couldn’t have done it.”

<sup>34</sup> “You were born a total sinner!” they answered. “Are you trying to teach us?” And they threw him out of the synagogue.

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### Background

The Pharisees in these verses were mostly self-righteous religious leaders who refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah. They tried everything to discredit both Jesus and the man healed from blindness. Starting in verse 27, the man responds to the Pharisees with clear sarcasm, exposing their pride and flawed logic. Unable to handle the truth, they cast him out of the synagogue.

Notice how the narrative shows a gradual revelation of Jesus’ identity: initially called “the man they call Jesus” (v.11), then described as “a prophet” (v17), later identified as “the Messiah” (v22), and ultimately connected with God Himself (v33).

### Teaching Points

#### 1. No amount of evidence will convince the hardened skeptic.

The Pharisees were hardened skeptics. They refused to believe Jesus was the Messiah despite clear evidence. Similarly, modern skeptics demand proof, but ignore clear evidence. For example, they say life and the entire working universe came from nothing--rejecting all the clear evidence of an intelligent Designer and Creator.

## **2. The religious establishment rejects the testimony of born-again believers.**

The healing of the blind man illustrates salvation: going from spiritual blindness to spiritual sight. And just as the religious leaders rejected Jesus and the healed man's testimony, today's religious establishment often rejects miraculous stories of born-again believers. While some churches celebrate miraculous transformations, many mainline denominations and seminaries downplay them as mere personal change, not "miracles."

### **Application**

#### **1. Don't be surprised if the religious world hates you.**

In verse 28, the religious leaders insulted the healed man because they couldn't refute his testimony. In verse 34, they said, *"You were born a total sinner!"* and expelled him from the synagogue. They weren't talking about the sinful nature that everyone has. They were showing fanatical hatred.

This moment highlights a sobering truth: the religious world often rejects true believers. 1 John 3:13 warns, *"Don't be surprised... if the world hates you."* And Jesus says in John 15:18, *"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first."* He wasn't just referring to the secular world, but even the religious establishment. They did everything they could to harass and discredit Him, and ultimately, they crucified Him! As His followers, we shouldn't be surprised if we face the same rejection from the religious world today.