

C. Enmity with the world is friendship with Christ (35-41).

- i. James 4:4

- ii. In his rejection Jesus *hears* about him and finds him.
 - a) This leads to even further revelation of who Jesus is.

 - b) His believing leads to worship.
 - In v36, he calls Jesus lord... a respectful *sir*.
 - In v38, lord means “Lord” as in what they called YHWH, for it is immediately followed with worship!

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- The parents of this man reveal that *fear of what others think* will blind us to who Jesus is. How has the fear of what others think effected your profession of Jesus before others?
- How does the once blind man, now disciple, show us we don't have to wait until we have it all figured out to start being bold for Jesus?
- How does this young disciples willingness to suffer rejection pay off in “friendship” with Jesus? How does that speak to you?
- How do we see each of the following in the story of the blind man: a) discipleship begins with new birth; b) at first we hardly know what to say; c) as we repeat what we've heard, we grow; d) as we are willing to be rejected on account of Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins to give us words to speak? (Be specific.)
- How does this account contrast with that of false disciples in John 8?
- Discuss: You can't have an increasing relationship with Jesus, without the speaking what you know, and the willingness to be rejected as you identify yourself with Jesus.
- Why is new birth essential for discipleship? (Include truths from John 8 in this answer also.)

The Word Became Flesh (Part 15)

The Life Cycle of a True Disciple

Jerry Cisar — November 19, 2017

Text: John 9

Introduction

I. Rebirth to Maturity (1-17)

A. Re-Birth (1-7)

- i. Blind from birth, he needs rebirth in order to have sight!

- ii. A judgment question and its answer

- iii. The sign itself (6-7):

- a) This scene recalls the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:7).
 - John 1:3
- b) What is its significance of the pool of Siloam?
 - Isaiah 8:6-7

 - Why are told that Siloam means “sent”?

- c) This man went in “dead” and came out “alive.”

- John 1:12-13

B. Childhood (8-12)

- i. Like a child, his first words are simple. It's his first sentence... a 2 word sentence: "ἐγώ εἰμι".
 - a) This man is only saying, "I am he."

 - b) John may want us to see beyond that...something about what it means to be born from above...the imitation of Jesus in this newborn.
- ii. "How were your eyes opened?"
 - a) He is speaking more, but it is still repetition.

 - b) He repeats truth, but can be easily stumped.
- iii. He was on a roll...but, then they ask...

C. Maturity (13-17)

- i. In v15 he retells the story of his healing in his own words.

- ii. Another short answer: "He is a prophet!"

II. Rejection and Removal (18-41)

A. Rejection by his parents (18-23)

- i. This rejection divides him from his natural heritage.

- ii. John tells us that they said this because they are afraid of getting kicked out of their social group (22-23).

B. Bearing witness leads to rejection; rejection to removal (24-34).

- i. The interrogation is both intimidating, and ironic.
 - a) Intimidating

 - b) Ironic
- ii. Quite the apologist (25).
 - a) When we share in the rejection of Jesus, we grow in our discipleship.

 - b) Being a disciple, a learner of Jesus, is all about hearing Him, and obeying.
 - 9:7
 - c) They affirm his discipleship, but divide him from Moses.

Gary Burge: "In modern-day Israel, a Jew can give up everything about his or her faith, even becoming an atheist, and still be considered a Jew in order to take up Israeli citizenship. The one thing that invalidates "Jewishness" is belief in Jesus. The deep irony is that an atheist is still Jewish, but a "messianic Jew" is not."

d) In vv30-33, this disciple launches into a sermon!

- The word "hear" or "listen" is suddenly all over this scene. All clear evidence that Jesus is from God!

- They can't see because they refuse to listen!

e) Their rejection grows to full grown removal.