

## Lesson 23: The Healing of the Man Born Blind

Objective: To know that no opposition can silence the man whose life has been transformed by Jesus.

Background: The Feast of Dedication, Hanukkah, the Jewish Feast of Lights in December, celebrates the cleansing and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was desecrated by the Gentiles. The teaching of "the Good Shepherd" (chapter 10), given at this Feast, is the last of the seven *public* discourses of Jesus recorded by John in his Gospel.

Instruction: Read John chapters 9 and 10 and then go over chapter 9 again as if you were an eyewitness.

Let's Think: Observe carefully the people that are involved in this episode.

1. What division did the presence of the former blind man create among the religious leaders? Was anyone happy for what had happened to him? Did anyone care? (Jn 9: 13-16).
2. What predicament did the parents of the former blind man find themselves in when they were summoned before the religious authorities? How did they get off the hook? Why? What do you think of the parents?
3. Do you observe the man grew in his understanding of who Jesus was as the interrogation progressed? Explain. (Jn 9:11-17,24-34) What is it that made the man stand firm, unshakable in the midst of persuasion (Jn 9:24-25) and opposition? Explain.
4. Was it an accident that the man met Jesus for the second time? What's significant about this encounter? (Jn 9:35-38; cf. Lk 4:18, The Son of Man here means the Messiah). How do you account for his readiness? *How many miracles* had Jesus performed on the man? Explain.
5. How does chapter 9 illustrate the claim Jesus made in vs. 5 and 39? Has it ever occurred to the religious leaders that they might be "blind"? Explain (cf. Jn 3:19-21).
6. During the feast, Jesus used the imagery of "shepherd" to castigate the religious leaders who were supposed to be the shepherds of the Jews. How does Jesus, a "good" shepherd, differ from the Jewish religious leaders? Meditate on Jn 10:10-11; 14-15; 27-30.
7. Do you think every believer ought to have a "one thing I know" experience that enables him/her to say, "I was (*then*) ...but *now*..."? Discuss.  
Look over the whole event and draw lessons that you have learned, and think how it should affect your life.

Let's Remember: The man answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; *one thing I know*, that though I was blind, now I see." (John 9: 25).