



True Vision

John 9

John 9 – Why should we speak about Jesus to others at every opportunity?

Our friends should learn more about Jesus when they talk to us. Mentioning Jesus will result in our own growth as well as there's. John chapter nine tells the story of Jesus healing a man born blind who also had his spiritual eyes opened as to who Jesus was. The man was grilled by religious leaders who sought to condemn Jesus. The more the man who was healed of his blindness just stated the facts about Jesus, the more he became convinced who Jesus really was. And some others come to see who Jesus really was as well. Our working Jesus into our normal everyday conversations will have the same results, some will grow closer to the Lord and others will dismiss our testimony. It is worth speaking up about Jesus for the sake of those who will grow as a result.

John 9 – How does this story help us be a better apologist for trusting in Jesus?

Standing for the truth of Christ will help you grow closer to Him. John chapter 9 tells the story of Jesus healing a blind man who progressively became more clear about who Jesus was the more he was questioned about what happened to him. We have opportunities to defend our faith in Christ when conversations about every day challenges or current events may be related to spiritual issues. The more we prepare for and engage in standing up for our faith in Christ, the stronger our faith becomes. We can prepare for such apologetic opportunities by considering how to bridge to spiritual matters topics likely to come up in conversations. Then be ready with an appropriate "sound bite" that makes clear how a trust in Jesus helps.

9:3 – What is the purpose of our difficulties?

Continually analyzing the cause of our difficulties is not productive. Instead, we should consider the purpose of our trials. Jesus' disciples assumed a man was born blind because of some particular sin. But Jesus said in John 9:3, "*this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life*" (NIV). Not all our troubles are the result of things we or our associates did wrong. Sometimes difficulties happen just because this is a fallen world and God allows them to serve a greater purpose. He may use our experience to encourage others passing through the same trials to bring about a change in the life of an associate. Keeping in mind that God uses even our difficulties to serve His purposes makes it significantly easier to deal with them.

9:4 – Why should we have a sense of urgency in fulfilling God's purpose for us?

We should live life with eternity in mind and not put off what we know we should be doing today. Jesus said in John 9:4, "*As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work*" (NIV). Jesus had a sense of urgency in His ministry. If eternity is important to us, the same sense of urgency is needed in our life. We shouldn't put off what God wants us to do today. If the Lord gives us an opportunity to accomplish something of eternal value along with the ability to do it, we should respond immediately. The night is coming when such opportunities will be gone. We will benefit from looking for ways to satisfy the interests of the Lord today.

9:25 – Why is it our story of how Jesus changed us may be so powerful?

Our own changed life is our most powerful argument we can make to a friend who disputes the claims of Jesus. John chapter 9 tells the story of Jesus healing a blind man who was grilled by religious leaders trying to discover some flaw in Jesus. But the former blind man did not give his inquisitors what they were looking for; all he said was what he experienced in John 9:25, "*One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!*" (NIV). People can't argue with personal experiences. You are the sole authority on what happened to you so your story about God giving you spiritual sight upon trusting in Christ is powerful. Those disputing the claims of Christ don't want to consider change. It is the Lord who gives both the power and the desire to change.

9:31 – How may we obtain God's help for our problems?

In order to appropriate God's help, we must first make sure He hears us. Thus, the prerequisite to getting God's help is to have a right relationship with Him. John 9:31 says, "*God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will*" (NIV). In order to do God's will, we need to love Him enough to learn what His will is by studying His Word, the Bible. God certainly wants us to apply His will. We do this when we make it clear to others that we follow Christ as we pursue excellence in what we do. God will help us in our quest for excellence as we get Him involved by praying about our needs.

9:39 – What is necessary for us to understand spiritual matters?

We shouldn't let associates who have chosen to be blind keep us from seeing and following the Truth. In John chapter 9, Jesus healed a blind man whose experience helped him recognize Jesus was the Messiah. Speaking to religious leaders who condemned the healing, Jesus said in John 9:39, "*For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind*" (NIV). The Lord gives spiritual understanding to those who recognize that their sin has blinded them. But spiritual darkness engulfs those who reject the truth being self-satisfied with their condition. As the healed blind man didn't let the religious leaders affect his view of Jesus, we shouldn't allow our spiritually blind associates to hamper our growth. So invite Jesus to be involved in your work every day!