**A PICTURE OF SPIRITUAL CONVERSION – JOHN 9**

Introduction: There are five incidents of Jesus healing blind men in the Gospels. (here; Matt. 9:27-30; 12:22; Mark 8:22-25; 10:46-52) The reason for the repeated emphasis is clear if one reads Matt. 13:13-15; John 12:40; Romans 11:25; II Cor. 3:14-16; 4:4.

1. The Cure – 9:1-11
2. This man pictures every lost sinner. (Eph. 4:18; John 3:3) The unsaved individual, though they be intellectual like Nicodemus (John 3), can never see or understand spiritual things. (I Cor. 2:14-16)
3. The cure pictures how Christ saves a sinner.
4. He came to the man in grace. Jesus could have passed by. While the disciples debated over the cause of blindness, the Lord did something for the man.
5. He irritated the man. Specks of dirt irritate the eyes, just like the Word irritates the soul until the blind are willing to do something about it. (Acts 2:37)
6. He cured the man by His power. He did not give him glasses, send him to a doctor or give him a guide dog. He cured him. Religion tries to give men a substitute for salvation.
7. The cure was noticed by others. Genuine conversion brings noticeable change.
8. The Controversy – 9:12-34 The Pharisees let it be known that anyone who confessed Christ would be excommunicated which would be losing friends and family. This forced the parents to waffle when discussing their son’s cure. The Pharisees attacked Christ by saying He was not of God (vs.16) and calling Him a sinner (vs. 24) The son tells what he knows (vs. 25) and shows the Pharisees how foolish their thinking was. (vs. 30-33)
9. The Confession – 9:35-40 The Jews cast him out, but Jesus took him in. Like Paul (Philippians 3:1-10), he lost his religion but found salvation. It’s interesting to mark his immediate growth:
10. “A man that is called Jesus” was all he initially knew. (vs.11)
11. “He is a prophet” (vs17) is what he called Christ when the Pharisees questioned him.
12. “a man of God (vs. 33) was his conclusion.
13. “the son of God” (vs. 35,38) was his final and complete confession of faith.