

ONE THING I DO KNOW

John 9:13-41

Key verse 9:25

“He replied, ‘Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know.
One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!’”

In the last lesson we learned Jesus' view that the work of God might be displayed in a man blind from birth. Jesus said, "We must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work." Our time in this world is limited. Let us look at our lives and the lives of our children and young people on campuses with Jesus' eyes and do the work of God.

The healing of the blind man revealed the mighty work of God. In today's text we see that the Pharisees denied this work of God to the end and did not want to believe in Jesus. Instead they wanted the healed man to betray Jesus. In the midst of trial, the healed man held on to the grace of Jesus until he believed in Jesus and worshipped him. As he held on to the grace of Jesus under all circumstances, his faith in Jesus grew stronger. May God use your testimony of the grace of Jesus to restore Germany as a shepherd nation and Europe as a missionary sending continent.

1. He is a prophet (13-23)

Let us look at verses 13-15a: "They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore, the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight." The man who had been blind had experienced the one-sided grace in his life. Since he was blind from birth, he could not see the face of his parents. He must have been tormented by many fatalistic, comparative thoughts. But one day the Lord Jesus came to him. Jesus made a mud with his

saliva, put it on the eyes of the blind man and sent him to the Pool of Siloam. When the man obeyed Jesus' command, the wonderful work of God was done. This work could only be from God, because the Lord alone gives sight to the blind. (Psalm 146:8)

Shortly after the blind man had seen God's mighty work, he experienced trial. The neighbors should rejoice with him. But they brought him to the Pharisees. Through their knowledge of the Scriptures and Jesus' healing work, the Pharisees should have recognized the Messiah. But they did not want to recognize the healing of the blind as God's work. For they sought honor with men and not with God. They had only one goal, to accuse and kill Jesus.

Let us read verse 15b: "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." The healed man again gave his testimony, which the neighbors had also heard. He testified to the Pharisees about the work of God, how Jesus had healed him. I know a man who testifies each time how God had concretely changed him. He used to live as a selfish salesman of light bulbs and vacuum cleaners. But with Luke 23:34a he experienced the forgiving love of Jesus and received the new life with the mission of God. Now God is using him as a shepherd and Bible teacher who testifies to the grace of God to the intellectual students and gives them the light of life.

How did the Pharisees react to the living testimony of the healed? Let us look at verse 16. They claimed that Jesus was not from God because he did not keep the

Sabbath. Other Pharisees were not so sure that Jesus was a sinful man because of the miraculous sign healing a blind man. Let us read verse 17 together: "Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." How could the healed man recognize Jesus as a prophet? He could not see Jesus, but he heard the words of Jesus: "The work of God might be displayed in his life." And he personally experienced the wonderful work of God that Jesus opened his eyes. The healing work was the proof for the man that Jesus is a man sent by God who does the works of God. When he remembered how Jesus had healed him, he knew who Jesus is. In verse 11, he called Jesus "the man they call Jesus". Now his faith grew, so that he testified that Jesus was a prophet.

Let us look at verse 18: „The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents." The Pharisees completely ignored the testimony of the healed man. They could not achieve their goal of accusing Jesus through the man. Therefore, they interrogated the parents: "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" (19) The parents evaded the second question because they were afraid of the Jews. For they put out from the synagogue everyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ. The exclusion meant being put out not only from the religious community but also from all social communities. The exclusion meant being hated by the world. (16:2) When the parents wanted to save their own skin and not lose their social position, they denied the grace of Jesus. At that decisive moment they were too cowardly to tell the truth, because they had more honor with men than with God. (12:43)

Here the Pharisees and the parents are in strong contrast to the healed man. The Pharisees despised the work of God in the man's life. The parents knew the work of God, but they were afraid to confess Christ. The healed person, however, testified without fear to God's work, which was done

through Jesus, a prophet. Many have experienced the grace of Jesus in their lives. But when they have to accept personal disadvantages, they immediately become afraid. At school, some people have great difficulty in cancelling a birthday party at the weekend. Some are very afraid to invite anyone to the Sunday worship service. It makes a big difference whether we confess Jesus or not. Jesus says: "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven." (Matthew 10:32,33)

Apostle Peter confessed Christ while many disciples ran away from Jesus. Peter could also have gone away with the excuse that Jesus would speak hard words. But at the decisive moment, Peter remained on the side of truth and confessed to Jesus: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (6:68,69)

In an Indian village, a family was forced to deny their faith. But the father said: "I have decided to follow Jesus." His children were killed. But the man said: "Though none go with me, still I will follow." His wife was killed. He was given one last chance to save his own life. But he stuck to his decision: "The world behind me, the cross before me. No turning back." The whole family was killed that day. Later the murderer of the family converted and the faith spread in the region. An Indian pastor formed the words of the father into the Christian song "I have decided".

We do not need to be afraid of our school or work colleagues or family members. Our next generation has no reason to be afraid of people. On the contrary, God has given a young man with Joshua 1:7-9 courage and determination to continue the weekly prayer meeting at his school under all circumstances. God has given a clear testimony of faith to our baptism candidates from the Gideon and Ezekiel team, by which they courageously confess Jesus and are used

as royal priests. We may courageously witness to Jesus by forming prayer group at school and 10,000 one-to-one Bible study teams in the 1700 universities in Europe. May God use you as courageous witnesses of Jesus and thus as main characters for the spiritual revival in Germany and Europe.

2. One thing I do know (24-41)

Let us look at verse 24: "A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God, " they said. "We know this man is a sinner." When the parents had not given any information, the Pharisees interrogated the healed man for the second time. They wanted him to defame Jesus as a sinner and betray the grace of Jesus. Although they had seen the work of God with their eyes and heard the testimony of the healed one with their ears, they did not want to believe in Jesus. Their sin knew no limit, so they assumed that the healed person would not give glory to God, but to a sinful man. The devil does not stop intimidating God's people, making them betrayers to the grace of Jesus and devouring them. (1 Peter 5:8)

Let us read verse 25 together: "He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" The man who was healed did not know much about Jesus, but one thing he knew: that he was blind and had become seeing. For the fourth time he testified to the grace of Jesus in his life. (11,15,17,25) The Pharisees had many prejudiced thoughts about Jesus. But the man who was healed testified what he had personally experienced: That Jesus had made him, who was a man blind from birth, seeing.

Here we learn that the healed man faithfully held on to the grace through Jesus. After the healing, he might have wished to get a job, have a family and integrating well into society. Should he really witness to Jesus' grace and renounce social privileges and be expelled from the synagogue? Because of the miraculous grace of Jesus, he chose to be rather misunderstood and expelled than

to save his life. Again and again, he was harassed with evil questions by the Pharisees. They persistently tried to make the healed man fearful. But the healed man held fast to the grace of Jesus. The grace in his heart made him strong to overcome all pressure and to penetrate deeper and deeper into the spiritual world.

Let us look at verses 28 and 29: "Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The healed man asked the Pharisees whether they also wanted to become disciples of Jesus, since they constantly asked the same questions about Jesus. The Pharisees did not want to become disciples of Jesus. Therefore, they hurled insults at the healed man because he was Jesus' disciple.

How did the healed person continue to hold on to the grace of Jesus? Let us read verses 30 to 33: "The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." The healed man testified that Jesus is from God, who had opened his eyes and done God's will.

Let us look at verse 34: "To this they replied, 'You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!' And they threw him out." The more the healed man held on to the grace of Jesus, the harder the temptation became. They slandered him as someone who had been born in sin, and threw him out. Holding on to the grace of Jesus was so costly for the healed man. It meant for him to be insulted, hated and thrown out by the religious leaders. The reward for holding on to the grace of Jesus was apparently only misunderstanding and suffering.

But let us look at verses 35 to 38: "Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him." The Pharisees had thrown him out. But Jesus had not forsaken him. Jesus found him and revealed himself to him as the Son of Man. When the healed one had held on to the grace of Jesus in the midst of the temptation, he received the greatest blessing of God, namely the personal meeting with his Lord Jesus. The healed man did not concern himself with the fact that he was thrown out of the synagogue. He did not sink into self-pity, but confessed his faith: "Lord, I believe." Jesus became his new and true object of worship. Because of the wonderful grace of Jesus, he decided to follow Jesus and put his life under his lordship. When the man held on to the grace of Jesus, he had lost everything in human terms. But with Jesus he gained everything, the eternal and truly blessed life in union with Christ.

Many young people ask themselves: "How can I meet Jesus? Do I really have the highest joy and a blessed life in Jesus? Let's read again the key verse 25: "He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" The key to a blessed life is to hold on to the grace of Jesus, no matter what the cost. We can be truly happy and influential witnesses to the grace of Jesus in the midst of trials. Then we can praise and worship our Lord like the man born blind: "Happiness is to know the Savior. Living a life within His favor. Having a change in my behavior. Happiness is the Lord. Real joy is mine. No matter if teardrops start. I've found the secret. It's Jesus in my heart!" (Stanphill)

When Apostle Paul traveled to Damascus to persecute the Christians there, the risen Christ met him in a light from heaven. The

risen Christ forgave his enemy Paul his sin and called him to be an apostle of the Gentiles. Paul did not forget this grace and testified to kings and governors. Because he gave himself so much for the work of God, he also experienced so many sufferings and persecutions. Instead of abandoning his mission, he always remembered God's grace: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me." (1 Corinthians 15:9.10)

In the last 40 years, a mission family has opened their house for discipleship through Bible study and common life. They renounce their private life, even until today, by opening their house for live together. In this way, God raised up many disciples of Jesus and established God- and mission-centered house churches. Nevertheless, this house church was maliciously slandered last year for no reason. In the midst of trials, however, they held fast to the grace of Jesus and to Philippians 1:21, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

I was blind to the love of God. I did not believe that God and my parents would love me. So I searched for love in the world. I lied to God by behaving like a Christian in the church, but inwardly I was full of shameful desires. But Jesus opened my eyes through Deuteronomy 6:5: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." When the absolute love and grace of Jesus came into my heart, God made me ready to give my bodies to Him. Last year I experienced the mighty work of God through the GLEF. But then the devil tried to make me betray the grace of Jesus. God reminded me of the wonderful grace: "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then God rewarded me abundantly with Romans 8:28 and 2 Timothy 2:15, so that my faith in the guidance and love of God grew bigger and I did my best to present myself to God as a worker of the Word of God. I praise God for his will to using me as a witness of the grace of Jesus and as a global spiritual

leader for world mission like the healed man.

Let us read verse 39: "Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Jesus revealed his purpose for coming into this world: to make the blind see and the seeing blind. The Pharisees asked if they were also blind. Jesus replied: "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains." Jesus is the good shepherd who came into the world to give physical and spiritual sight to a blind man. Jesus came to make the Pharisees see spiritually as well. But since they denied Jesus and his grace to the end, they remained spiritually blind in their sin. By claiming that they were sighted, their self-righteousness was revealed. Jesus teaches us here the truth that he came to make the blind see. God blesses abundantly those who have experienced the grace of Jesus and who also hold on to the grace in the sufferings of Jesus and uses them as influential main persons and leaders in his world salvation work. But those who deny the grace of Jesus and do not repent remain spiritually blind and in their sins.

Today we have learned that the healed man confessed Jesus without fear and in the midst of trials proclaimed the wonderful grace of Jesus: "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" The more firmly he held on to the grace of Jesus, the more deeply he recognized who Jesus is and seized the greatest blessing of God. Are you ready to hold on to the grace of Jesus like the blind man: I was blind but now I see? No matter the cost? Living with the grace of Jesus is the truly blessed life. Let us confess Jesus without fear and testify to the wonderful grace of Jesus in all circumstances: I was blind but now I see. May God use your personal testimony of the grace of Jesus to raise 100,000 Bible teachers and 5 million prayer coworkers.

Let us read the key verse: "He replied, 'Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!'"