

OPPOSITION TO JESUS

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 9:1-41**. From Roy H. Enoch (12-12-93).
- C. The religious leaders of Jesus' day banded together to oppose Him and His teachings.
 - 1. Unable to deny the miracles, they attributed them to Beelzebub, prince of the demons.
 - 2. When He raised Lazarus from the dead, they plotted how to kill Jesus and Lazarus.
 - 3. Opposing Jewish sects banded together to trap X for an excuse to put Him to death.
 - 4. They even hired false witnesses to slander Him.
- D. Today, we want to look at one example of this opposition from John 9.
 - 1. They tried to deny that the miracle took place.
 - 2. They tried to discredit those who testified about it.
 - 3. They cast out those they could not intimidate and when they could not answer arguments made.
 - 4. These steps are still used in opposition to those who teach the NT doctrine.

I. THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS TRIED TO DENY THE MIRACLE.

- A. The Pharisees claimed, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."
 - 1. Jesus had healed the blind man on the Sabbath.
 - 2. The Law did not forbid helping people on the Sabbath.
 - 3. It only forbade doing "customary work" on the Sabbath.
 - 4. They did feed and water their animals; and pull out of a ditch if it was in difficulty.
- B. They tried to deny that this man was born blind.
 - 1. They asked his parents: "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" (9:19).
 - 2. The parents said:
 - a. "We know that this is our son."
 - b. "And we know that he was born blind." (9:20).
 - c. "But by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." (9:21).
- C. The Pharisees were using their position to coerce the people to support them (Jn. 9:22).
 - 1. Denominational leaders still use this method to try to force compliance with their regulations and policies.
 - a. They will often join together to criticize and slander a preacher who clearly and plainly preaches the NT doctrine w/o compromise.
 - b. Many in the church complain when sin is condemned, and false doctrine exposed.
 - c. The worldly would rather hear interesting stories or fables than the doctrine of X.
 - 2. There seems to be a disregard for the miracle, but a focus on whether their "traditions" about the Sabbath were violated.
 - a. The "neighbors" accepted the fact of the miracle when the man identified himself as the "beggar."
 - b. The Pharisees questioned the parents to establish that he was born blind.
 - c. But they would reject this marvelous work as the power of God to hold on to their tradition.
 - d. Some ignore the teachings of X today to add or substitute what they like, like instrumental music, choruses, solos, and other things that please men.

II. THEY TRIED TO DISCREDIT ONE WHO WOULD THREATEN THEIR TRADITIONS.

- A. They rejected Jesus as having power from God (Mt. 12:22-24).

1. Jesus shows what this really shows (Mt. 12:28).
 2. The common people could see this because they did not have selfish interests or positions to protect.
 3. They could not deny the resurrection of Lazarus, but they still rebelled against the conclusion that it was from God (Jn. 12:9-11).
 4. Those who are committed to do as they please, will oppose any truth that they don't like regardless of the consequences.
- B. They rejected the testimony and evidence of the man healed.
1. They would have rejected the parents if they had concluded that Jesus was the Christ (Jn. 9:22).
 2. They rejected the man who was healed and his testimony (Jn. 9:24).
 - a. This reminds us of Joshua asking Achan to confess. Joshua 7:19
 - b. When they could not answer his logical arguments, they attacked him personally (Jn. 9:34).
 - c. They should have let the man teach them because he reasoned clearly and logically from the Scriptures. See Jn. 9:31; Psa. 66:18; Prov. 28:9; Jer. 11:14; Isa. 59:1,2.
 - d. They knew that they could not answer his arguments.

III. JESUS SHOWED A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE.

- A. The apostles were concerned w/ the cause of his condition.
1. They assumed that it was the punishment for sin.
 2. Since he was born blind, whose sin?
 3. Jesus says that it was not the penalty for sin.
 4. He taught the same in Luke 13 (Lk. 13:1-5).
- B. The Pharisees were also mainly concerned w/their traditions and teachings.
1. They rejected the clear fact that the miracle could only come from God.
 2. When they could not get their way, they cast the man out.
- C. Jesus had a completely different focus.
1. He did not speculate on the cause of blindness, but what he needed in his condition. He healed him and He taught him.
 2. When the Pharisees cast him out, Jesus sought him out to lift him up (Jn. 9:35-38). It is easier to criticize those who are in a troubled situation than to help them.
- D. We need to learn to care about the person and try to help.
1. Be involved in people's needs and try to understand their situations.
 2. It is difficult to teach those who have pressing physical and social needs.
- E. Jesus also taught from the situation (Jn. 9:39-41).
1. Greater knowledge brings greater responsibility, yet w/o the truth we are lost.
 2. Let us always seek to learn as well as opportunities to teach.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Jesus focused on helping remedy the problem rather than discuss.
- B. His miracles prove that He is from God.
- C. He continued to be interested in the man's welfare.
- D. Let us go and do likewise.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.