



Determining Your Destiny

Series: Gospel of John, #20

John 9:1-41

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Theme: Your response to God's light determines your destiny.

The negative, downward progression of the Pharisees.

1. They concluded Jesus was not from God. (16; see also 22)
2. They questioned Jesus' miracle. (18)
3. They labeled Jesus as a sinner. (24)
4. They demonstrated their spiritual blindness. (29)
5. They are declared to be unforgiven sinners. (41)

The positive, upward progression of the man born blind.

1. He initially saw Jesus as just a man. (11)
2. He recognized Jesus as a prophet. (17)
3. He determined that Jesus was the one to follow. (27)
4. He concluded that Jesus was from God. (33)
5. He believed in and worshiped Jesus. (35-38)

Some lessons to remember.

1. Always respond to the light you now have.
2. Accept that people normally move through stages in responding to God's light.
3. Communicate the gospel clearly and carefully.
4. Remember that ultimately the work and response is between God and the individual.

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Yesterday we focused on *determining your destiny* from John 9. Read 9:1-5. Think about the disciples' faulty assumptions. Why do you think they made these assumptions? How did that affect their view of the man born blind? We can identify with the disciples because we too can operate from faulty assumptions. Ask God to help you spot and correct any and all false assumptions.

Tuesday. After questioning the man Jesus healed, the Pharisees called in his parents. Read 9:18-23. They feared being put out of the synagogue if they gave the wrong answers. What does that tell you about their priorities? How do you think their son felt about this? Are there fears you have that can or have led you to compromise truth and relationships? If so, ask God to forgive you and trust Him to care for you even when there is a steep price for doing what is right.

Wednesday. Read 9:13-41, noting the negative progression of the Pharisees to God's light in Jesus (use the outline to guide you through the steps). Why is rejecting any light from God dangerous? Are you responding to the light God is giving you today?

Thursday. Read 9:6-38, noting the positive progression of the man born blind (use the outline to guide you through the steps). As well, reflect on the "lessons to remember" on the outline. How does this impact your witness to people you want to come to know Jesus? How does it impact your own response to God's light?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Read and think through 10:1-42 in preparation for our time together.