

Thought for the Day 21st April - Joan Loane

John 9: Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

This is a fascinating story with six people or groups of people involved...

We start with the man born blind. What a profound disability! It probably resulted in a complete lack of education and ability to support himself. Unlike most, if not all, blind people in the Bible, his blindness was with him from birth, not acquired. He had never seen anything, ever.

The disciples had no thought of helping him. They wanted to know the cause of his blindness. There are always people who want to argue about side issues. That way they don't get involved and don't have to get out of their comfort zone.

Then Jesus healed him. (Isaiah had prophesied the Messiah would heal the blind.)

Next are the neighbours and others that knew him. They wanted to know how he had been healed and where was this healer. They decided to take him to the Pharisees. In a way, they were really dobbing him in because it was the Sabbath and healing was not allowed on the Sabbath.

Now we have the Pharisees. They were in two camps...the first had their entrenched view: If Jesus healed on the Sabbath, he must be a sinner. The second lot looked at the miracle and realised it must have come from God. And then together they did an extraordinary thing...they asked this unlearned man what he thought.

Now we come to his parents, who admitted he was their son but were not going to get involved. They did not want to be thrown out of the synagogue and the Jewish community. You would think the joy of finding their son with sight after all those years, would have made them stand up for the One who had healed him.

And then the Pharisees questioned the man again, but he was sick of them. He was fearless in front of them...and taunted them. He said that it was remarkable that they didn't know where Jesus came from, that God listens to the godly man who does his will. If this man(Jesus) were not from God, he could do nothing. So he got thrown out.

Jesus heard about it and found him. He asked him if he believed in the Son of Man and the man confessed his faith and worshipped him. It is interesting to see how this man comes to know Jesus. At first he calls him 'the man they call Jesus' (v.11), then 'a prophet' (v.17), then one 'from God' (V.33) and then he worships him as 'the Son of man' (v.38).

He cared nothing what people thought...he was going to testify fearlessly to the One who had healed him. We can learn a lesson from him. He was on fire for the Lord. No luke-warmedness there!