

Center For Christian Living
The Encounter With Jesus
Week 5
John 9:17-34
Jordan Washington

Historical Background: The origination of the book was probably Ephesus although no definite reference is given. If John came to Ephesus around A.D. 70, then he would have been ministering there for about 15-20 years before he wrote this Gospel. As to the *destination of the book*, almost twenty years had passed since the home-going of Peter and Paul, and almost twenty years since the destruction of Jerusalem. It is quite probable that the elders of the Asian churches had requested that John write down the things he had been teaching before he died. Thus, the account is written to convince all that Jesus is the Son of God.

The *circumstances of the book* relate to doctrinal heresies prevalent at the time. Gnosticism, with its dualism, dilemma of the origin of evil, and its mysticism was in the incipient stages. The heresy rocked the church to its foundations in the second century. Allusions to a pre-formalized Gnosticism or Docetism are evident in the writings of John. With the evidence of the Synoptic Gospels and with the eyewitness testimony of Jesus, no one was more qualified to present the divine picture of Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Reason for writing the book John states his purpose for writing in 20:30, 31 as that which he wrote was recorded in order to confirm that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God and to convince those who believe that they have life in His Name. Subordinate purposes of a polemic against Docetism or incipient Gnosticism and the exposure of Judaism as an inadequate system of religion that crowned its sins by rejecting the promised Messiah (1:11).

The immediate context is the people from his (the blind man) past and the church folks were treating him bad, they refuse to acknowledge the miracle in his life, they refuse to acknowledge the power and authority of Jesus, they got angry and kicked him out of the church.

- I. **Be consistent in Your Presentation. (v.17)**
How do you take a stand for what is right?

1. The blind man spoke what he knew to be true—despite limited knowledge
2. Our message must match the words and actions of Christ

II. Not Everyone Will Believe the Truth. (v.18)

How do you stand when even your family refuses to stand up?

1. You will face pushback for your faith and the gospel message
2. On the basis of the blind man's testimony, he was considered a disciple by the pharisees

III. We Cannot Testify Out of Fear. (v.19-23)

How do you speak the truth when everyone seems to be against you?

1. Don't fear or worry when others discount your message on the basis of your past or mistakes.
2. Remain faithful to the end

IV. Be Ready to Be a Witness. (v. 24-34; 1 Peter 3:15-16)

1. Be prepared for the questions and contrast
 - A. Law keeping and self-righteousness was weaponized against the blind man
 - B. Jesus was a law breaker in the pharisees eyes
 - C. Pharisees opinions don't change who Christ is
2. Stand firm on the person and work of Christ
 - A. Highlight the uniqueness of Christ