

**FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE**

- 1) The last six months of Jesus' life had been filled with controversy and with attempts on the part of the authorities to trap him.
- 2) 9:15 From the Pharisees' position, Jesus broke Sabbath Law—not because He had violated Scriptural mandates, but because He had ignored extra-biblical man-made laws.
- 3) The religious leaders prided themselves on keeping the minutiae of the legalistic Sabbath rules, while at the same time ignoring far more important issues such as showing mercy. (cf. Matthew 12:11–12; Mark 3:4; Luke 13:15–16)
- 4) 9:16 The division among the Pharisees showed there were at least a small minority who were not openly hostile to Jesus.
- 5) 9:17 At first the blind man was focused solely on the work of Christ, then he began to discern the magnitude of what had happened. His knowledge increased because of his experience.
- 6) 9:18-19 The Pharisees were grasping at straws. Perhaps they could cause people to question the validity of the miracle.
- 7) 9:22-23 Contrary to what they said, the man's parents clearly knew who had healed their son. Had they not known, there would be no reason for them to be afraid that they would be put out of the synagogue.
- 8) 9:24 The Pharisees were warning the witness he had better take the same position as the court.
- 9) All the arguments and attacks of those who do not believe cannot revise and cannot change the Truth.

10) 9:27 You have to admire the man's boldness. He was asking Pharisees if they wanted to follow Jesus!

11) 9:30 Since, according to the Jews, "God does not listen to sinners", how could Jesus have performed this miracle if he were under condemnation?

12) 9:34 All of us are born in sin (Psalm 51:5), but we need not live in sin (Colossians 3:6–7) or die in our sins. Faith in Jesus Christ redeems us from sin and gives us the life we are meant to live.

13) 9:35-36 It was not enough to say that Jesus was "a man called Jesus," or even "a prophet" or further yet, "a man of God." This progression illustrates the man's movement from darkness to light, both physically and spiritually.

14) 9:38 His worship of Jesus replaced his worship in the synagogue. The Jews "put him out," but Jesus does not cast out those who come to Him.

**GREEK WORDS USED**

**Schisma** (skhis'-mah)—a split or gap:- division, rent, schism

**Apsosunagōgas** —excommunicated/put under a ban-banishment that meant being cut off from the religious/social life of Israel; a greatly feared punishment (12:42; 16:2)

**Loidoreo** (loy-dor-eh'-o)—to reproach, vilify:- revile

**Pisteuō** (pist-yoo'-o)—to have faith (in -with respect to a person), by implication to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ) :- believe, commit (to trust), put in trust with

**FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

Have you arrived at the point in your life in which you can personally profess faith in Jesus by saying "I believe!"?