

The 'Profit' of Persecution (John 9:13-17, 34-39)

Introduction: An old *All in the Family* TV episode: "Ain't that too bad!"

I. AIN'T THAT TOO BAD: THE WAY THE PHARISEES TREATED THE HEALED BLIND MAN

- A. Here was a walking, breathing, miracle...and all they could see was a threat to the "staus quo"
- B. They finally excommunicated him from their synagogue (v.34)
- C. What can we learn from his testimony... what is **the profit of his persecution?**

II. WHY WERE THE PHARISEES SO UPSET ABOUT HIS HEALING?

- A. According to them, Jesus broke Sabbath law with this healing
- B. According to them, Jesus' use of clay was a Sabbath breaker (Exodus 20:8-10)
- C. According to them, Jesus' use of spit was against the religious law
- D. All of this was the height of religious hypocrisy!

III. WHAT WAS THE 'PROFIT' IN HIS PERSECUTION BY THE PHARISEES?

- A. Note their "cross examination" of his testimony (v.15)
- B. We can imagine his rambling story told to others earlier (John 9:11ff)
- C. Now, under persecution, his testimony is sharpened up ... and can be true for us also (vv. 15ff)
- D. Under persecution, his faith grew...and so can ours (vv. 15ff)

IV. WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ABOUT PERSECUTION, PROFIT, AND GIVING TESTIMONY?

- A. Conflict will come to believers who testify publicly about Jesus
- B. Jesus will not abandon us in the conflict
- C. When faced with persecution due to our testimony, God will
 - 1. Sharpen our testimony, and
 - 2. Deepen our faith
- D. Our motivation for giving testimony (like the healed man) is gratitude for what Jesus has done

Conclusion: An old teddy bear: *The highest fee ever received for professional services rendered*