



**SERMON OUTLINE MARCH 26, 2017**

## **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 “status 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*