

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the live stream of Sappony Baptist Church in Stony Creek, Virginia. We are pleased to have you join us online. We look forward to the day that we can meet again in person! What a day of rejoicing that will be! Do us a favor if you would, please like and comment to let us know that you've joined us. Audio of this sermon, along with sermon notes and information about our church will be available at sappony1773.org.

INVOCATION:

Gracious Father, we thank You for allowing us the privilege to gather online today. We thank You for the health and safety that You continue to give us. We thank You for the ability to worship and proclaim Your word today. And we thank You for Christ, our Redeemer, whose name and attributes we proclaim today. In the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 9:1; 6-34

BACKGROUND:

When John wrote his gospel, it was with the purpose that people would read about the miracles of Christ and believe that He is the Messiah and have eternal life. Chapter 9 is all about one astounding miracle that could only have been done with God's authority. Today, we will look at the reactions to this healing and observe what happens when people see Jesus at work. Today, we will see that SOME WILL DENY, SOME WILL ACCUSE, and SOME WILL REJECT.

SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:

1. SOME WILL DENY
 - a. The first seven verses here tell an unusual story.

- b. (9:8-9) Some didn't think it was him.
 - i. They looked for the natural explanation.
 - ii. It was *really* hard to believe.
- c. People today deny the work of Christ.
 - i. They deny creation.
 - ii. They deny human dignity (womb to tomb)
 - iii. They deny forgiveness of sin, or even that there is sin.
 - iv. They also attribute the works of Christ to others.
 - 1. Medical science
 - 2. Good luck
 - 3. Karma
 - 4. A Big Bang
- d. Note what our guy does here in verse 9. **He kept saying, "I'm the one!"** Then he goes on to tell them how he was healed.
- e. If you have been healed of something, you have an obligation to tell people *how* you were healed.
- f. Whether they believe or not is not your responsibility; your responsibility is to tell.
- g. When confronted with something that they can't just deny, many will go into accusation mode.

2. SOME WILL ACCUSE

- a. (9:16) **Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He doesn't keep the Sabbath!" But others were saying, "How can a sinful man perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.**
 - i. It seems that some "got it"
 - ii. The ones who were accusing Jesus were the ones with something to lose.
 - 1. Power
 - 2. Authority
 - 3. Respect

- b. Then they tried to deny and disprove again.
 - i. (Vs. 18) They asked his parents.
 - ii. Note the unwillingness of the parents to answer anything because they didn't want thrown out of the synagogue.
- c. (9:24) **Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.**
 - i. They are trying to put doubt into the mind of this new believer.
 - ii. God has been accused of many things.
 - iii. When people don't have a valid point, they often resort to character assassination.
 - iv. George Smathers vs. Claude Pepper 1950 Florida congressional race.
- d. If they accepted the miracle in their face, then they had to accept Christ and surrender to Him. This is why most today don't accept Christ. They don't want to give up their own sin.
- e. Note again that our formerly blind guy stood up to them.
 - i. (9:25) One thing I do know: I was blind and now I can see.
 - ii. (9:27) You don't want to become his disciples too, do you?

3. SOME WILL REJECT

- a. Not only did they reject Christ, but they rejected the man that Christ healed.
- b. It's the same today. People who reject Christ cannot stand those who remind them of Him.
- c. When you become a Christian, at least if you are one who proclaims Christ, this will be a terrible sound in the noise of those who reject Him.
- d. How about you? Will you accept Him or reject Him today?

4. GOSPEL PRESENTATION (James Merritt)
 - a. The bad news: We are all sinners separated from God.
 - i. Everyone sins.
 - ii. God is holy and sin is a barrier between us and Him.
 - b. The worst news: There is nothing we can do to take care of our sin problem.
 - i. Religion?
 - ii. Trying harder?
 - iii. Generosity?
 - c. The good news: Jesus did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
 - i. He lived a sinless life
 - ii. He died for our sins.
 - iii. His payment was proven at His resurrection.
 - d. The best news: God's forgiveness and eternal life is a free gift, and all we have to do is receive it.
 - i. Realize you are a sinner.
 - ii. Repent of your sin.
 - iii. Receive Christ as Lord and Savior.
 - e. Three questions
 - i. Do you understand what you have heard, and does it make sense to you?
 - ii. Is there any reason you can give God that God would accept why you could not receive Christ into your life?
 - iii. Are you willing to pray to Christ for your salvation?

Lord Jesus, I confess today that You are Lord. I turn my life over to You to do Your will. I believe in my heart that You were born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for my sins, was buried for three days, and was raised from the dead on the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and ask Your forgiveness for my sins. I commit my life to You from this day forward. Amen!

If you just prayed this prayer for the first time and are now a new believer, please let us know in the comments so that we can reach out to you to help you get started in your new life in Christ.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.