

John 9:13–34 – “A Bold Witness for Jesus”

God uses ordinary people who testify to what Jesus has done to spark transformation and silence critics. But a bold witness must also be ready to face rejection, opposition, and even persecution.

The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:

Jerusalem was the religious center where the Pharisees held authority, and public confession of Christ was costly. The synagogue was central to Jewish worship and community life; being cast out meant social shame and spiritual isolation. When Jesus healed a man born blind, the miracle was undeniable, yet because it happened on the Sabbath it became a flashpoint for conflict. The healed man’s testimony revealed not just physical sight but also spiritual clarity. As he grew bolder, the Pharisees hardened their opposition, showing how God’s truth divides those who receive it from those who resist it.

Passage Outline

- **I. A faithful witness will cause division (vv. 13–17)**
 - **II. The cost of confession (vv. 18–23)**
 - **III. The power of God strengthens our witness (vv. 24–34)**
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Passage Notes

I. A faithful witness will cause division (vv. 13–17)

The man testified simply: “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Instead of rejoicing, the Pharisees argued—some accusing Jesus of breaking Sabbath laws, others recognizing that no sinner could do such miracles. His testimony divided them, revealing that the works of Jesus always expose hearts. Legalism blinds, but open hearts see Christ.

II. The cost of confession (vv. 18–23)

Unwilling to believe, the Pharisees questioned the man’s parents. Out of fear of being cast out of the synagogue, they distanced themselves: “He is of age; ask him.” Fear of man silenced them, but their

son chose courage. Confessing Christ often costs relationships, security, and reputation, yet silence robs us of reward in the Kingdom.

III. The power of God strengthens our witness (vv. 24–34)

Pressed again to denounce Jesus, the man stood firm: “One thing I know: though I was blind, now I see.” His boldness grew as he reasoned that only someone from God could perform such a miracle. Unable to refute him, the Pharisees insulted and expelled him. But his courage shows that God’s power in our lives creates unshakable witnesses.

The Modern World – Relevance Today:

Testifying about Jesus still provokes division. Our culture often labels grace as “too easy” and clings to man-made traditions. Fear of rejection keeps many silent. Yet God calls us not to shrink back, but to stand firm in His truth, knowing the Spirit empowers even ordinary believers to speak boldly.

The World of the Congregation – Applying This Passage Today:

Many in the church face the same pressures—fear of losing friends, status, or approval. But Christ rewards those who endure opposition for His name. A bold witness not only glorifies God but strengthens others to stand firm.

What This Means for Us

- **A faithful witness will divide people—but reveal truth.**
 - *Who do you know that needs the gospel?*
 - → Keep testifying about Jesus, even when others resist.
- **Fear of man silences truth—but courage is rewarded.**
 - *What are you afraid of losing by confessing Christ?*
 - → Remember, the cost of silence is greater than the cost of confession.
- **God’s power creates bold witnesses—truth outlasts opposition.**
 - *When was the last time you remembered what Jesus has done for you?*
 - → Say it aloud this week: “One thing I know—Jesus changed me.”