

**LESSON 137**

**Egermeier's Story:**

Page 434 –Jesus Heals a Blind Man

**Memory Verse:** John 20:31 “But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” NASB

**Scripture:** John 9

**Teaching Resource:**

Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lesson 320

**Object Lesson:**

One of the challenges that a teacher of little children faces is the concept of the miracle. We might define a miracle as something only God can do. But to a small child who has heard many children's stories, fairy tales, and the like, the concept of the miracle is not as well formed as we might expect.

It is not hard to teach the children about what blindness is. You can ask them to close their eyes. They won't be able to see anything; explain this is how it looks to a blind person all the time. Explain that sometimes babies are born without the ability to see. They are born blind. Other times a person may be in a terrible accident, and their eyes are damaged so badly that the eyes don't work any more. The person becomes blind. In either case, blindness cannot be cured with medicine or surgery. It truly is a miracle when blindness is healed.

**Doctrinal Emphasis:** Jesus Claims to be Deity

**Key Theme:** *Jesus expressed His Deity on numerous occasions and never shrunk from equating Himself with Jehovah.*

The story of the man born blind in John 9 is only one of many occasions when Jesus asserted His Deity. In John 8:58, Jesus leaves no doubt as to His claim of equality and oneness with the Father. Using the Hebrew tetragrammaton, “I AM” (YHWH), Jesus states that He is the God of Israel and worthy of worship. There was also no doubt in the minds of the Jews—they were ready to kill Jesus at that point because He claimed to be God.

This premise is at the core of Christianity. Without the acceptance of Jesus as Deity, there can be no salvation. The failure to believe this key doctrine is at the heart of all the false speculations about Jesus Christ. Dan Brown's book can only have some credence if one denies the Deity of Christ. Understanding of and belief in the doctrine of the Deity of Christ will easily debunk all of these spurious attempts at creating a mere man, a man not above the human race but only a man and not someone who can give his life for the salvation of mankind.

There is a logical progression in these attempts to supplant Christianity. First, take away the need for a creator, and you remove the need for responsibility to a righteous God. Take away the need for responsibility to a righteous God, and you can take away sin. After all, if there is no need to answer to a righteous God, what can then be defined as sin? Take away sin, and you remove the need for a savior. If no one sins, what need is there for a savior to save from sin and its power? Take away the need for a savior, and you can explain the life of Jesus anyway you like.

There can be no doubt that Jesus claims to be Deity. This passage in John 9, the passages in John 8, Luke 22:70, Matthew 12:50, Matthew 28:18, John 5:17-22, and John 6:40 are just a few that make this claim. It is interesting that only man has ever denied the Deity of Jesus. The waves obey His voice (Matthew 8:24-27); the demons recognized Him and called Him the "Son of God" (Matthew 8:29); fish in the Sea of Galilee obeyed His will and followed His direction to get into the fisherman's net (Luke 5:1-7).