

Stop Pointing with Your Finger

by Chaplain Frank Wm Nagy

Isaiah 58:9 Then shall you call, and the LORD shall answer; You shall cry, and He shall say, "Here I am." If you take away the yoke from the midst of you, **the putting forth of the finger**, and speaking vanity :10 and if you draw out your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall your light rise in obscurity, and your darkness be as noonday.

Isaiah 65:2 ...A rebellious people, which walks in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts... :5 They say, "**Stand by yourself, do not come near me; for I am holier than you.**" These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burn all the day. :6 Behold, it is written before Me. I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom, :7 Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, who have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed Me upon the hills. Therefore the LORD says, I will measure their former work into their bosom.

Isaiah 66:5 Hear the word of the LORD, you that tremble at his word; **Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for My Name's sake, said, "Let the LORD be glorified,"** but He shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

Matthew 7:1 **Judge not, lest you be judged.** :2 You shall be judged by what judgment you judge. The measure you use will be used to measure you.

Matthew 7:3 **Why do you behold the mote in your brother's eye,** but do not **consider** the beam is in your own eye? :4 How will you say to your brother, Let me pull the mote out of your eye; while a beam is in your own eye? :5 You hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of your own eye. Then you shall see clearly to cast the mote out of your brother's eye.

Luke 18:9 [Jesus] spoke this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: :10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. :11 **The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank You, that I am not as other men are, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.** :12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. :13 The publican, standing afar off, would not so much as lift his eyes to heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. :14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other. For every one that exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted.

John 7:40 Many of the people, when they heard [Jesus'] saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

:41 Others said, This is the Christ.

But some asked, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? :42 Has not the Scripture said, That Christ comes of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

:43 So there was a division among the people because of him.
:44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.
:45 When the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, these leaders asked them, Why have you not brought him?
:46 The officers answered, Never has anyone spoke like this man.
:47 Then the Pharisees asked them, Are you also deceived? :48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? :49 But **this people who do not know the law are cursed.**

Our Adventures with Jesus -- Chapter 9

Jesus Came to Change Things

“Why Was He Born Blind?”

John 9:1 As Jesus left, he saw a man blind from birth.

:2 His followers asked, "Teacher, what made him be born blind? **Who did wrong?** This man or his parents?"

:3 "Neither. It wasn't the man's, nor his parents' sin," said Jesus.

"But God's work will at last be seen in his life."

:4 Jesus said, "We must do the work of him who sent me while we still can. While it's day we can work. At night no one can work."

-- [**"Teacher, who did wrong?** Jesus' followers knew God was just. They thought sin had made the man blind.] --

Jesus Opens Blind Eyes

9:5 "While I am here, I am the light of the world." :6 Having said this, he spit on the ground. **Jesus made clay with his spit.** He put it on the blind man's eyes.

:7 "Go," he told the man. "Wash in the Pool of Siloam." (Siloam means Sent.)

So the blind man went, washed, and came home seeing.

9:8 Those who had seen him begging before asked, "Isn't this the same man who sat and begged?"

:9 Some claimed he was.

Others said, "No, he just looks like him."

But the man spoke up. "I'm him! I was blind."

:10 "How were your eyes opened?" they asked.

:11 The man said, "The man they call Jesus **formed some clay**. He rubbed it on my eyes. He told me to go wash at Siloam. I went to wash, then I could see."

:12 "Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," the man said.

9:13 The man born blind was brought to the Pharisees.

:14 Jesus **formed clay** to open the man's eyes. **He had "work-ed"** on a **Sabbath**. :15 This upset the Pharisees.

-- [**Formed some clay**. Jesus **worked** to form clay. On the sixth day, God formed man out of clay. Yet, Jesus' creative work to make a man see took place on the *wrong day*.

He worked on a Sabbath. For more of Jesus' thoughts on the Sabbath see **John 7:22-24 and notes**.] --

"Now I See!"

:15 cont) The Pharisees asked the man how he could now see.

"He put clay on my eyes," the man said. "I washed. Now I see."

:16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God. He doesn't keep the **Sabbath**."

But others asked, "How can someone doing wrong do such works of power?"

So they were split, once more.

:17 They turned to the one who had been blind. "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man said, "He's a prophet."

9:18 The leaders didn't believe he had been blind. They couldn't see how someone might be given their sight. They called for family to check out his story.

Family and Friends Throw a Man to the Dogs

:19 "This man is your son, right?" They spoke to his parents. "You say this man was born blind? How can he see?"

:20 His parents answered. "We know he was born blind. :21 But how he can see now,

or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is old enough to answer. Let him speak for himself," his parents said.

:22 They said this for they feared the leaders. Any saying Jesus was the **Messiah** would be **put out of the synagogue**.

:23 The man's parents didn't want to be kicked out. That was why his people said, "He can speak for himself. Ask him."

The Eye Witness Gives the Pharisees a Hard Time

9:24 The Pharisees called the one who had been blind a second time.

"Give praise to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

:25 The one who had been blind said, "Whether he's a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind, now I see!"

:26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

:27 He answered, "I have told you. You didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you wish to become his followers, too?"

:28 They called him names. Then, they said, "You are this fellow's follower! We're followers of Moses! :29 We know God spoke to Moses. As for this fellow, **we don't even know where he's from.**"

9:30 The man answered, "Now that's really something! You don't know where he's from, yet he opened my eyes. :31 **We know God doesn't listen to sinners. He listens only to the godly, who do his will.** :32 From the beginning nobody ever heard of such a thing. No one has opened the eyes of one born blind. :33 Don't you see? **If this man was not from God, he could do nothing.**"

9:34 They fussed at this. "**You were soaked in sin at birth!** How dare you try to teach us!" They threw him out of the synagogue.

-- [**"Give praise to God."** They put him under oath in God's name to tell the truth as in Joshua 7:19.)

Edersheim sees this as an admission God healed the man. They said the man should give God the glory, not Jesus. -- Edersheim, p ii 185.] --

-- [**"We do not know where he is from."** Yet, they seemed so sure he was from Galilee in **John 7:27**.

Matthew Henry says, "They ought to have known. The

Messiah was due to show. It concerned them to look for him. It is certain they could've known where he was from by searching the records showing he was born in Bethlehem." -- Matthew Henry p 1021-1022.

Knowing that, they would have been more sure Jesus was the Messiah. It was foretold, the Messiah was to come from David and be born in Bethlehem.] --

-- [**We know God doesn't listen to sinners.** This man is not a Bible teacher. Yet, he knows something. Psa 34:15-16 says, "The eyes of the **LORD** are on those who live right. His ears note their cry. 16 The **Lord's** face turns away from those who do evil..." Psa 66:18 says, "If I hold sin close to my heart, the **Lord** will not hear me."

Henry says, "This doesn't mean those who turn from wrong. Yet those wanting to keep on sinning, will not get God's help." -- Matthew Henry p v 5 1023.] --

-- [**"He listens only to the godly, who do his will."**
The second word of the healed man is a comfort to the right living. -- M Henry v 5 p 1023.

This is like Psa 66:19 says, "But God has heard me. He has listened to my voice when I cried out to him."] --

-- [**"If this man was not from God, he could do nothing."**
This unlearned, ex-blind man had the same idea as the Bible Teacher, Nicodemus, shared in John 3:2.] --

-- [**"You were soaked in sin at birth."** They deny what Jesus said in 9:3. They say his blindness came by sins of his parents as the Talmud (eg. Nedar. 20 a) allowed. -- also *Josephus* Antiq. xviii. 1.3. cited by Edersheim, p ii 178-179.

These Bible teachers ignored what David wrote in Psalm 51:5. David admitted, "Surely I was sinful at birth. Sinful from the time I was conceived."] --

Jesus Shows His Love to the One He Healed

9:35 Jesus heard that the man was put out of the synagogue. When **Jesus found him**, Jesus asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

:36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so I may trust in him."

:37 Jesus said, "You see him! He's the one speaking to you now."

:38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe." **He worshipped Jesus.**

9:39 Jesus said, "**I came in this world to judge.** The blind will see. Those who see will become blind."

:40 Some **Pharisees** with him heard him say this. They sneered, "**What are we? Blind?**"

:41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not know your sin. But, **you say, 'We see!' and go on living in your sins.**"

-- [**Jesus found him.** Jesus had looked for him.] --

-- [**He worshipped Jesus.** Jesus let the man worship him. If he wasn't God, he should have said so then. Jesus couldn't be good if he wasn't also God. See what he said in Matt 4:10.

The word used for worship means to kiss. Like a dog licking his master's hand, to fawn. To bow oneself in reverence, to adore.] --

-- ["**I came in this world to judge.**" See John 12:47. **I did not come to judge.** Jesus came to save, but many did not take his good gift of life.

David H. Stern says, "Any judging Jesus did at his first coming was to make it clear where folks stood with God." -- Stern p 185.

"**I judge no one** (John 8:15)," he said. "Jesus, when he was in the world led men to pass judgment on themselves." -- Tasker p 114.

Jesus also made sure people had a continuing witness. See John 16:8-11: "When (the Counselor) comes, **he'll show the world** its wrong. He will show wrong, right living and judgment. :9 He shows wrong, for men don't believe in me. :10 He shows right living, for I go to the Father. There they cannot see me. :11 He shows judgment. The prince of this world is now judged."] --

-- [**What are we? Blind?** Those asking this were leaders.

Jesus asked, "How can blind lead the blind? Won't both end up in the ditch (Luke 6:39)?"

What Jesus said reflected the laws of his time. Jewish law did not let blind men lead.] --

-- [**"You say, 'We see!' and keep on in your sin."** Jesus says they willfully turn a blind eye to truth. Jesus says the same as the ex-blind man (vv. 32-33). Truth stares them in the face, yet they will not see it.

These un-teachable men hold the truth in a wrong way. They'd rather turn from the truth, than admit they were wrong. This put them under judgment.] --

The Error of Not Considering Your Brother Equally in Showing Respect

Peter was sidetracked into not acknowledging Christian Gentiles. Paul had to correct Peter in public:

In Galatians 2:11 Paul wrote, "But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. :12 For he **ate with the Gentiles before certain ones came from James, but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself**, fearing those which were of the circumcision. :13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their hypocrisy.

:14 "But when I saw they were not walking right according to the truth of the gospel, I told Peter off before them all, saying, 'If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles, and not as the Jews do, why do you compel the Gentiles to live as the Jews? :15 We who are Jews by nature and not sinners of the Gentiles :16 know that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even as we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.'"

James 2:1 My brethren, you do not have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; :3 And you have respect to him that wears the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand there, or sit here under my footstool:

:4 **Are you not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?...**

:8 If you fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well: :9 But if you have respect to persons, you commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

James 4:11 **Do not speak evil one of another, brethren. He that speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.**

:12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you that judges another?

Instead of a Pointing Finger Try a Helping Hand!

Now Let's Apply This Teaching to Romans 1 and 2:

Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is **revealed** from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **hold the truth in unrighteousness**; ¹⁹ Because what may be known of God is manifest in them; for **God has showed it unto them.** ²⁰ For the **invisible** things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because when they knew God, they did not glorify him as God, neither were they thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an **image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.** ²⁴ *So God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:* ²⁵ **Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature** more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶ For this cause [their **IDOLATRY**], God gave them up unto *vile affections*. Even their women did change the natural use into *what is against nature*. ²⁷ Likewise the men, *leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another. Men with men working what is unseemly* and receiving in themselves what was the right recompense for their error. ²⁸ Even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.** ²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God,

despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
³¹ Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection,
implacable, unmerciful: ³² Who, knowing the judgment of God, that they which
commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure
in them that do them.

**Romans 2:1 You are inexcusable, oh man, whoever you are that judge, for
whenever you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you that judge do
the same things.** :2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth
against those which commit such things. :3 What do you think, O man, that
judges those who do such things, and do the same? Shall you escape the judgment
of God? :4 Or do you despise the riches of his goodness and forbearance and
longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? :5
But after your hardness and impenitent heart you treasure up unto yourself wrath
against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; :6 Who
will render to every man according to his deeds.