Blinder than Blind
John 9:1-41

Introduction:
A. TV commercial: “Cleaner than Clean”; “Whiter than white”.
   1. Cartoon about these: “They must think we are ‘dumber than dumb”
   2. Blind man’s observers were indeed, “blinder than blind”.
B. The truth the observers could not see: Jesus is Divine.
   1. The evidence plain enough for anyone to see. (vs. 25, 31-32, 35-38). -- Like plains passages today.
      (cf. Mk. 16:16; Eph. 4:4; Matt. 19:9; Rom. 6:4; Heb. 10:25, etc.)
   2. The evidence could only mean Jesus is Christ. (cf. John 20:30,31).
C. The truth was missed by them because of blind spots that many have today:

Discussion:
I. Fear
   A. Afraid of deciding for oneself.
      1. The neighbors had the evidence but carried him to Pharisees. (vs. 8-12).
      2. People have Scriptures but afraid to study for selves. (cf. Acts 17:11)
         a. Does not mean one can never seek help. (Acts 8:31)
         b. Does not mean one should despise leadership. (1 Thess. 5:12,13).
         c. Does mean that religion is not to complicated to common folk.
         d. Does mean that should not let “church”, preachers etc study and supply our answers for us.
   B. Afraid of being “put out” by others.
      1. Parents were afraid of being “put out of the synagogue” (vs. 18-23).
      2. People fail to understand and stand because of same fear.

II. Tradition
   A. Pharisees blinded by traditional (Not Scriptural) view of Sabbath. (v. 16, 24).
   B. People cannot see plain teaching because conflicts with their traditional view.
      1. Tradition is not bad, depends on its source. (cf. 2 Thess. 3:6).
      2. Human tradition without religious significance not necessarily bad.

III. Prejudice
   A. Jews had already had their minds made up. (v. 22).
      1. At first denied the miracle. (v. 18).
      2. Then denied that Jesus performed it. (v. 24).
      3. Anything but give up their prejudiced conclusion.
   B. People today miss truth because have already decided it could not be so.

IV. Pride
   A. Pharisees took pride in their tradition and heritage (v. 28-29).
      1. Can reduce church membership to tradition and take pride in it.
      2. Can take pride in national and religious heritage. (cf. Lady in Wisc.)
   B. Pharisees took pride in their position. (v. 34).
      1. Diotrophes may have taken pride in his position. (3 John 9).
      2. We can take pride in our position.
         a. As elders, preachers, etc.
         b. As members of “church of Christ”.

Conclusion:
A. All need to be careful to honestly weigh evidence and obey truth.
B. All need to form strong convictions.
   1. Do not need to be tossed about by every wind of doctrine. (Eph. 4:14).
   2. But, must be open-minded to strong evidence to change convictions.