

Stand Up For Jesus

“He replied, ‘Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!... The man answered, ‘Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’”

John 9:25,30-33 (NIV)

When I was a child in Sunday School there was a favourite song of mine that I loved to sing. The words of the first verse went as follows:
Stand up, stand up, for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss:
From victory unto victory,
His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

Every time it was announced for us to sing I would bellow the words out with all my strength. I did not have any idea of the meaning of the message of the song, I just loved the notion of being a soldier in an army.

The story of the man born blind in John 9 is fascinating as an example of someone coming from the darkness of sin to the Light of the Gos-

pel. He begged a meagre living as an adult at the temple but on the Sabbath he was not allowed to beg or receive alms as it was against the custom of the day. So the man’s presence at the temple on the Sabbath indicates he was there for other reasons than to beg money from the worshippers. Being in the Temple on the Sabbath – a person was obviously looking to the Lord to speak through the sacrifice, the singing, the prayers and reading of the Torah.

This man, therefore, was one who feared the Lord and was seeking to show the honour due to the Lord through his worship and praise of God. Everything about the Temple spoke of the Lord and the sacrifice that was yet to come which would atone for the sins of God’s people.

We do not know how often

he heard the voice of God in his attendance at the Temple before this day. The amazing thing was that on the day spoken of in John 9 he came into the very presence of the Lamb of God Who would take away the sin of the world.

Today we do not go to the house of God because we think we will see Jesus with our eyes. Rather by going to God’s house, singing the hymns with understanding, hearing the Word of God read and expounded, and praying we do “see Jesus”.

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