

**Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death - The Man Born Blind**

John 9:1-41

How important is your “day off” to you? God wired us for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us to remember the Sabbath. It can be tricky to take a day off as a \_\_\_\_\_. Something \_\_\_\_\_ seems to happen on that day!

Today, Jesus decides to work on his “day off” and it causes quite a stir. But he will die soon. Is it really wise to give up a lot of days to rest? Not if you have a clear \_\_\_\_\_, especially this one! Some things just can't \_\_\_\_\_.

A number of people were NOT available for God's mission in this passage:

The disciples were too busy talking \_\_\_\_\_ the man/mission.

The neighbors \_\_\_\_\_ about whether anything noteworthy had even happened.

The parents were too \_\_\_\_\_ about their standing in the community.

The Pharisees were so obsessed over the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Law that they missed its \_\_\_\_\_.

Their position, power, and \_\_\_\_\_ were of primary concern. They couldn't acknowledge a \_\_\_\_\_!

So, they \_\_\_\_\_ to submit themselves to God in any real way.

In fact, they \_\_\_\_\_ and condemned the one God \_\_\_\_\_ (twice!).

Eventually they actively \_\_\_\_\_ him and became more blind than the man Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.

But there were some that WERE \_\_\_\_\_ for God's mission:

Jesus didn't allow theology to keep him from \_\_\_\_\_ what he preached.

Jesus was willing to work on his “day off” because he knew his time was \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus also knew a more powerful point than the letter of the law regarding the \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus was also willing to remain available despite \_\_\_\_\_ and threats.

In fact, he let them oppose him to the point of \_\_\_\_\_.

He did not \_\_\_\_\_ all of the blind man's battles for him. But saw him through them.

The Man Born Blind \_\_\_\_\_ the grace of God through Jesus, no questions asked.

Even though he didn't \_\_\_\_\_ everything, he \_\_\_\_\_ to what he did know. \_\_\_\_\_!

Despite opposition and threats, he too continued to bear \_\_\_\_\_.

**God has a mission and you are an important part of it.**

*In what ways are you like the disciples? The neighbors? The parents or the Pharisees?*

*In what ways are you like the Man Born Blind? Maybe even Jesus?*

*How is God leading you to be MORE available for his mission and MORE like the Man Born Blind and Jesus?*

*What has God done in your life? How is he asking you to simply share what you have seen and heard?*

*What are you going to DO about it?*