

DOES GOD HEAR A SINNERS PRAYER?

TEXT: John 9:23-33.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jesus had healed a man who was born blind.
- B. The Jews were upset because He did it on the Sabbath day.
- C. Jesus went against their beliefs by healing on the Sabbath which they viewed as work.
- D. The man's statement in 9:31 has been misunderstood by some.

BODY: DOES GOD HEAR A SINNERS PRAYER?

I. NO!

- A. There is a sense in which God does not hear a sinners prayer!
- B. This man was not inspired.
- C. What he said was based on truth taught in the Old Testament.
 - 1. Pa. 66:18.
 - 2. Eze. 39:23.
 - 3. Reasons God will not hear.
 - a. wickedness.
 - (1). Prov. 15:29.
 - (2). Ps. 34:15-17.
 - (3). Mic. 3:4.
 - b. sin.
 - (1). Isa. 64:7.
 - (2). Isa. 59:1-2.
 - c. turning to other gods-Deut. 31:18.

d. having hands full of blood- Isa. 1:15.

e. refusing to hear God- Prov. 28:9.

D. The New Testament Teaching.

1. Christ will not even know some who called on Him- Matt. 7:21.

2. God hid His face against evil- 1 Peter 3:12.

3. We get what we ask for when we keep His commandments- 1 Jn. 3:22.

II. DOES GOD HEAR A SINNERS PRAYER? YES!

A. If not we cannot pray- Rom. 3:23.

B. God heard Paul pray before he was saved.

1. Acts 9:10-11.

2. Acts 9:17-18.

C. God heard Cornelius before he was saved.

1. Acts 10:1-4.

2. Acts 10:30, 31.

3. When Peter is defending this he says Acts 11:13-14.

4. God heard before Cornelius was saved!

D. Simon told to pray though he was a sinner.

1. Acts 8:14-22.

2. Why would they tell the poor man to pray if they knew God would not hear him.

E. How Could God Not Hear?

1. Jer. 23:24 Cannot hid from God.

2. Psa. 139:1-15, 23.

3. Psa. 147:15b ". . . His understanding is infinite."

III. HOW CAN THE ANSWER BE BOTH YES AND NO?

A. As the man said, "I have strong feelings both ways."

B. Must define the words.

1. Hear can mean answer as it does in Jn. 9:31.

2. Hear can mean just to hear.

3. Sinner can mean different things. Rom. 3:23 all are sinners.

C. There is a difference in sin!

1. Numbers 15:22 unintentionally.

2. Numbers 15:30 Presumptuously or with a high hand.

3. Heb. 10:26-31 willful sin.

D. Let's look at the "sinners" that God heard again.

1. Paul.

a. 3 days and nights without food.

b. he was in the state of repentance.

c. he had a preacher sent to him.

2. Cornelius.

a. a devout man.

b. was sent a preacher.

3. Neither man was a high-handed sinner.

4. Neither man got anything from God except the means that could save them-- the Gospel preached to them.

CONCLUSION:

A. God hears and knows all things.

B. God only answers the prayers of His faithful children- Prov. 15:8-9.

C. You Become His Child By Obeying Him.

D. Come and obey the gospel today.

1. Believe- Heb. 11:6 "For he that cometh..."

2. Repent Lk. 13:3.

3. Confess Rom. 10:9-10.

4. Be baptized- Mk. 16:16.