

DOES GOD HEAR A SINNER'S PRAYER? JOHN 9:31

(Mark 4:24-38)

INTRODUCTION: (THOUGHT 21 HAD BEEN THROWN OUT OF THE
THE DANGER OF TAKING A TEXT OF SCRIPTURE OUT OF ITS CONTEXT.
BY DOING THIS WE CAN TEACH THAT

THERE IS NO GOD, Ps. 14:1 (THE 101, GOD IS OUT OF CHA

GOD HAS FORGOTTEN HIS PEOPLE, Isa. 49:14

THAT WE OUGHT TO WORSHIP THE DEVIL, Mt. 4:9 (RENT IN TAY, IT

THIS WILL NEVER DO. BEFORE WE START TO BUILD A DOCTRINE ON
ANY ONE TEXT OF SCRIPTURE, WE MUST FIND OUT WHO SAID IT, IN
ON WHAT OCCASION, WHAT HE MEANT BY IT, WHETHER GOD ENDORSED
IT OR NOT, ETC., AND HOW IT COMPARES WITH OTHER SCRIPTURE.

THE TEXT IN JOHN 9:31 IS THE SAYING OF A CERTAIN BLIND MAN
WHO WAS FAR FROM BEING WELL INSTRUCTED. IT MAY BE TAKEN FOR
WHAT IT IS WORTH AS AN EXPRESSION OF HIS OPINION, BUT IT IS
CERTAINLY NOT TO BE REGARDED AS CHRIST'S TEACHING.

FOR ITS REAL VALUE WE MUST COMPARE IT WITH OTHER SCRIPTURE.

1. IT IS NOT TRUE IN SOME SENSES.

WE CAN NOT SAY ABSOLUTELY THAT GOD DOES NOT HEAR A SINNER'S
PRAYER, BECAUSE:

1. ALL MEN ARE SINNERS, AND IF GOD NEVER HEARD A SINNER'S PRAYER,
HE WOULD NEVER HEAR ANYONE WHO PRAYED.

A. "THERE IS NO MAN THAT SINNETH NOT", I KINGS 8:46.

B. EVEN SAVED SINNERS ARE NOT PERFECT,
YET GOD HEARS THEM WHEN THEY PRAY.

2. GOD DOES SOMETIMES HEAR AND ANSWER UNREGENERATE MEN

WHEN THEY PRAY.

A. HE HAS NOT PROMISED TO DO SO AS HE HAS PROMISED TO HEAR
HIS CHILDREN WHEN THEY PRAY, YET HE MIGHT IN SOME CASES
DO SO IN PURE MERCY, TO MANIFEST HIS GREAT COMPASSION, AS
HE HEARS THE YOUNG RAVENS WHEN THEY CRY, Ps. 147:9

B. HE MIGHT DO SO TO SHOW THAT HE IS TRULY GOD, AND
MAKE THEM OWN IT, Ps. 106:44, "MANY TIMES THEY
PROVOKED HIM, NEVERTHELESS, HE REGARDED THEIR AFFLICTION,

WHEN HE HEARD THEIR CRY."

C. HE MIGHT DO SO TO LEAD THEM TO REPENTANCE, I KINGS 21:27,
"WHEN AHAB HEARD THOSE WORDS, HE RENT HIS CLOTHES, AND PUT
SACKCLOTH UPON HIS FLESH, AND FASTED, AND WENT SOFTLY.

AND THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ELIJAH SAYING, SEEST THOU
HOW AHAB HUMBLETH HIMSELF BEFORE ME? BECAUSE HE HUMBLETH
HIMSELF BEFORE ME, I WILL NOT BRING THE EVIL IN HIS DAYS."

D. HE MIGHT DO IT TO LEAVE THEM WITHOUT EXCUSE, Ex. 10:16-17,
"THEN PHARAOH CALLED FOR MOSES AND AARON IN HASTE; AND HE
SAID, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND AGAINST
YOU. NOW THEREFORE FORGIVE, I PRAY THEE, MY SIN ONLY THIS
ONCE, AND INTREAT THE LORD YOUR GOD, THAT HE MAY TAKE AWAY
FROM ME THIS DEATH ONLY."

E. SOMETIMES THE ANSWER TO THEIR PRAYER MIGHT BE GRANTED AS
A PUNISHMENT UPON THEM,

(1). AS HE SENT QUAILS TO THE MURMURERS, Num. 11:33

(2). AS HE GAVE ISRAEL A KING, I SAM, 12:17.

3. GOD DOES GRACIOUSLY HEAR SINNERS WHEN THEY CRY FOR MERCY.

A. NOT TO BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE TO RENDER THE GOSPEL NO GOSPEL.
ACTS 2:21, WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD
SHALL BE SAVED."

B. NOT TO BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE TO DENY FACTS, SUCH AS DAVID,
THE DYING THIEF, THE PUBLICAN, THE PRODIGAL, AND OTHERS.

C. NOT TO BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE TO DENY THE PROMISES OF GOD.

(1). ISA. 55:7, "LET THE WICKED FORSAKE HIS WAY,

AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS MAN HIS THOUGHTS; [INTONATION] THE DAWNING

AND LET HIM RETURN UNTO THE LORD, THAT HE MAY BE RESTORED.

AND HE WILL HAVE MERCY UPON HIM; [INTONATION] THE DAWN

AND TO OUR GOD, FOR HE WILL ABUNDANTLY PARDON."

II. YET IN OTHER SENSES, IT IS TRUE THAT THE LORD DOES NOT PROMISE TO HEAR AND DOES NOT HEAR THE SINNER'S PRAYER, AS HE HAS PROMISED TO HEAR, AND AS HE DOES HEAR, THE PRAYER OF HIS OWN CHILDREN. (1 PETER 3:12)

1. HE HEARS NO SINNER'S PRAYER APART FROM THE MEDIATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. 1 TIM. 2:5 - ONE MEDIATOR

EPH. 2:18 - THROUGH HIM WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE FATHER

2. HE WILL NOT HEAR A WICKED, FORMAL, HEARTLESS PRAYER, TAW

PROVERBS 15:29 - THE LORD IS AN EASY, THE WICKED

3. HE WILL NOT HEAR THE MAN WHO WILFULLY CONTINUES IN SIN, AND

ABIDES IN UNBELIEF. JER. 14:12 - "I WILL NOT HEAR THEIR CRY."

ISA. 1:15 - "WHEN YE MAKE MANY PRAYERS, I WILL NOT HEAR."

4. HE WILL NOT HEAR THE HYPOCRITE'S MOCKERY OF PRAYER, JOB 27:9 - "THE HOPE OF THE HYPOCRITE - WILL GOD HEAR HIS CRY?"

5. HE WILL NOT HEAR THE UNFORGIVING. MK. 11:25, 26 - "IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE, NEITHER WILL YOUR FATHER FORGIVE YOU."

6. HE WILL NOT HEAR EVEN HIS PEOPLE WHEN SIN IS WILFULLY

INDULGED IN AND ENTERTAINED IN THEIR HEARTS. PSALMS 66:18 - "IF I REGARD INIQUITY IN MY HEART..."

7. HE WILL NOT HEAR THOSE WHO REFUSE TO HEAR HIS WORD, OR

TO REGARD HIS ORDINANCES. PROV. 28:9 - HIS PRAYER SHALL BE AN ABOMINATION.

8. HE WILL NOT HEAR THOSE WHO HARDEN THEIR HEARTS AGAINST THE

ADMONITIONS OF HIS SPIRIT, AGAINST THE Warnings OF HIS PROVIDENCE,

AGAINST THE WARNINGS OF HIS MINISTERS, AGAINST THE STRIVINGS OF CONSCIENCE, ETC.

PROV. 1:24-28

9. HE WILL NOT HEAR THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BE SAVED BY GRACE,

OR WHO TRUST IN THEIR OWN PRAYERS AS THE CAUSE OF SALVATION.

10. HE WILL NOT HEAR SINNERS WHO DIE IMPENITENT.

A. AT THE LAST HE WILL CLOSE HIS EAR TO THEM, AS TO THE

FOOLISH VIRGINS, WHO CRIED, "LORD, LORD OPEN TO US."

B. NOTHING IS SO ILLOGICAL, SO UNNATURAL, SO PRESUMPTUOUS

AS FOR AN IMPENITENT SINNER TO PRESUME OR DARE TO PRAY

TO GOD AND YET CONTINUE IMPENITENT AND REBELLIOUS.

IT IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED THAT REBELLION AGAINST ANY

GOVERNMENT CUTS OFF ALL RIGHT OF PETITION TO IT.

THE FACT THAT GOD IS GOOD, KIND, AND LOVING, OR

THE FACT THAT HE IS IN GREAT TROUBLE,

DOES NOT EXCUSE HIS IMPENITENT AND PRESUMPTUOUS PRAYER.

THE ONLY PRAYER A SINNER HAS A RIGHT TO PRAY,

AND THE ONLY PRAYER GOD HAS PROMISED TO ANSWER,

IS A PRAYER FOR MERCY AND FORGIVENESS FOR SIN.

THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

H. M. 2/27/55