

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon  
Wichita KS 67204  
(316) 838-4195  
www.letjesusleadus.org

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Classes . . . . . 9:30 am  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 am  
Evening . . . . . 6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Classes . . . . . 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

# Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

January 27, 2008

## To know or not to know

by David King

In the opening verses of John 9, we read of Jesus healing a blind man. Jesus healed many blind people, so this could be called an "ordinary" miracle. But there was nothing ordinary about the aftermath of this miracle.

Because Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath day, in Jerusalem, it created quite a stir, especially among the Pharisees, who were anxious to squelch any growing enthusiasm for this itinerant Galilean preacher. Jesus was nowhere to be found, so they interrogated the next available witnesses — the blind man and his parents. The exchange among these three parties reveals some important lessons about how we determine truth.

Let's do a quick pass through the story and highlight everything the participants reported that they "know" or "don't know."

First, the blind man's parents testified, "**We know** that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees **we do not know**, or who opened his eyes **we do not know**" (v. 20-21).

The Pharisees then pressured the blind man to reject Christ: "So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, 'Give God the glory! **We know** that this Man is a sinner.' He answered and said, 'Whether He is a sinner or not **I do not know. One thing I know:** that though I was blind, now I see'" (v. 24-25).

The Pharisees were angered by his candor. "Then they reviled him and said, 'You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. **We know** that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, **we do not know** where He is from.' The man

answered and said to them, 'Why, this is a marvelous thing, that **you do not know** where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now **we know** that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him'" (v. 28-31).

As a result of speaking his convictions, the man was cast out of the synagogue (v. 32). A short time later, Jesus found him, and the man professed his faith in Jesus (v. 35-38).

Note some obvious lessons from this story.

First, there is a place for experiential knowledge. The parents obviously knew the basic facts about their son, and their son knew that he had been the recipient of an unmistakable miracle. They "knew" by experience.

Second, a lot of knowledge is the product of reasoning on indirect evidence, rather than personal experience. The Pharisees correctly "knew" that God had spoken through Moses — yet that knowledge was based on second-hand evidence over a thousand years old.

Third, knowledge can be trumped by prejudice. The Pharisees believed Moses based on miracles performed long ago, yet they could not believe a miracle right under their noses.

Finally, knowledge changes over time, as an honest mind digs, sifts, sorts, and reasons upon the available evidence. At first the blind man did not know if Jesus was a sinner. Yet by the end of this story, he was putting the pieces together, and came to the conclusion that Jesus must be the Messiah.

Our search for knowledge follows the same path — if we are willing to take it.