

## “Reaching Conclusions”

John 9:35-41

How do you arrive at conclusions? You research the facts, don't you? Then, when you reach a conclusion, can you explain to someone else how and why you arrived at it? Because of our personal limitations and because we live in an ever-changing world, sometimes our conclusions need to be revised. We need to reevaluate what we believe and make sure our conclusions about life are still valid.

Hello friend, I'm J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. The program you're listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope. We're an international Gospel media ministry. Each week our Bible teaching broadcasts circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages. Tens of thousands tune in each week for spiritual nourishment and blessing.

Like this listener in India. He heard our Telugu language program. He wrote, “I'm a carpenter by profession. I'm so delighted to have your program. It is truly the Living Hope. (That's the name of the program translated into English). It is the pure Word of God, enriching my soul everyday as I mediate on the Word of God. Thank you for this precious exposition.”

Isn't it wonderful that a man in India can hear the Gospel message in his own language and be encouraged and blessed? At Heralds of Hope we count it a privilege to be a tool God can use to share His love with so many people. And we're glad we can share it with you!

Having a correct understanding of who Jesus is requires getting our information from the proper source. And on this episode of *Hope for Today* Dr. Yoder will show us how to gather information so we can reach proper conclusions, valid conclusions, about who Jesus is. If you've been tuning in regularly to *Hope for Today*, you know that we're studying from John's Gospel. Our Bible teacher for this series is the late Dr. J. Otis Yoder, founder, and president of Heralds of Hope. Here he is with today's teaching; “Reaching Conclusions.”

Some people who claim to be the wisest and the smartest never make up their minds on the subject of religion. They think it is a mark of intelligence to suspend judgment on such a vital subject. Now why should we be so slow to make up our minds on the most important part of our lives, the religious. When it comes to other areas, like food, those same people who are so slow to make up their minds on religion quickly make up their minds.

As human beings we are made to reach conclusions. We cannot live with our judgments in suspense indefinitely. To be undecided is a very difficult position to hold. While our thought processes should be active, they should lead us to a position, to a conclusion, and not just all the time say, "I don't know."

One of the marks of an intelligent person is his ability to state his conclusions on a subject, even though those conclusions may need to be modified when more truth is available. We ought to become concerned about REACHING CONCLUSIONS. Let us think about that with John 9:35-41 as a basis.

35 *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?*

36 *He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?*

37 *And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that taketh with thee.*

38 *And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

39 *And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.*

40 *And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?*

41 *Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*

We had better put together our thought patterns so that we can reach proper conclusions. From this text I purpose to show two MANDATES which you will need to follow in order to reach satisfying conclusions.

First you must **Answer the Most Important Question.**

What is it? What is the most important question? Is it, "Who am I?" Well, that is an important question, but is that the most important question? Or is it, "Why am I here?" That, too, is an important question, but is it the most important question? Or is it "Where am I going?" Now that also is a very important question. But none of these is the most important question.

The most important question is the one that Jesus asked this blind man. It is this, "Do you believe on the Son of God?" This is the most important question you can ask, and I am asking that

question now. Now don't turn me off. Hear me through. This is the most important question anybody can ask you.

This question you must answer. Just as the man in our story in the Bible needed to answer. He could not come to a satisfying conclusion until he said, "Lord, I believe." He first asked, "Who is he." And when he learned who He was, he said, "Lord, I believe." now. Do you believe on the Son of God? You cannot indefinitely hold your judgment in suspense. I ask you that question now and you must answer it sometime.

The second mandate is this: **Trust the Most Certain Cure.**

What is it? Well, men say today you must put yourself out front. You must say, "I am number one." No, but that is not a cure. In fact, that may be a disease. They tell me you must say to yourself, "I am self-sufficient; I will make it." No, no, my friend, that sounds like the devil. The prophet Isaiah in chapter 14 of his book tells us that Lucifer, son of the morning, said just exactly that, "I will be like the most High." No, that is not the most certain cure.

What is it? What is the most certain cure? Accept healing for your blindness. Notice how Jesus replied to these Pharisees when they said to Him, "Are we blind also?" He said, "If you were blind you would have no sin, but now you say, we see; therefore, your sin remains.

I get a tremendous truth out of that statement from Jesus. I get this: you had better admit that you cannot see. Then Jesus can give you sight. He can help you see. There is a blindness much worse than physical blindness, much worse than this man who was born blind. That blindness is spiritual. When people are deliberately blind they will not see the truth. That, my friend, is awful. That is a blindness that will curse you. But Jesus said if they were blind then it would be possible for them to see. But since they say they are not blind they are hopeless and blind.

Now it's very simple, my friend, very simple. Come to Jesus for healing. That is the most certain cure. There is no other cure as effective as this one. I am especially talking about the kind of blindness that Jesus addressed Himself to when He was talking to these Pharisees, a blindness of the mind. Not a blindness of the eye, but a blindness of the mind.

To reach the really satisfying conclusion these two mandates or requirements must be met. Answer the most important question. What is it? Do you believe on the Son of God? Trust in the most certain cure that He can give you sight. I urge you to respond to these mandates with this positive. Yes, I believe on the Son of God.

My friend, what conclusions have you reached about Jesus? In his first epistle, his first letter, the apostle John wrote these words; *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”*

I hope this teaching has blessed you. If you have questions, write to us here at *Hope for Today*. We will take your questions to God’s Word and find answers for you.

The quickest way for you to contact us is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “Reaching Conclusions.” We’d be happy to send one to you.

Once again, the quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, “Reaching Conclusions.” It’s available in print or on an audio CD.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study from John’s Gospel with an important message titled “The Abundant Life.” You won’t want to miss it. And until then, I urge you to keep looking for that blessed HOPE.