

“Jesus Heals The Man Born Blind”

John 9:1-25

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Teaching Aim: To examine the events surrounding the healing of the man born blind. To recognize the healing of the blind was one of the signs the prophet Isaiah said would accompany the Messiah’s ministry. To realize suffering may not be the direct result of a particular sin that we’ve committed, it may be for the glory of God. To understand, “...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (See **Rom. 8:28**)

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Jesus intervenes and heals a man born blind (John 9:1-7)

1. **Chapter 8** ended with Jesus declaring to the religious leaders, “...before Abraham was, I AM”. In doing so, Jesus boldly declared His deity. As we come to **chapter 9**, Jesus is about to anger the Pharisees once again. One of the signs the prophet Isaiah gave of the coming Messiah was that He would give sight to the blind. What other signs should the religious leaders have been looking for? (See **Isa. 29:18-19; 35:4-6**) What message did Jesus send to the jailed John the Baptist when John sent messengers inquiring if Jesus really was the long-awaited Messiah? (See **Matt. 11:2-6**)

2. As we come to **verse 1**, Jesus and His disciples walked past a blind man. What made this blind man such a difficult case? What was this man most likely doing? (See **vs. 8**)

3. In **verse 2** we find the disciples of Jesus falling into the logical fallacy of the false dilemma, or in this case the either/or fallacy. What incorrect assumption had the disciples come to? Was assuming wrong? Have you ever been guilty of making false assumptions when it comes to the homeless? If so, how? Is there any one universal cause to their situation?

4. The disciples assumed there were only two possible reasons the man was born blind, what were they? What third option do we learn from Jesus in **verse 3**? Is it possible to say this man was born for such a time as this? Today we do a lot of grumbling about the way things are going in the world, but is it possible that we were born for such a time as this? What are some ways that we as Christians can bring glory to God in the world that we live in?

5. The sad reality is that people often suffer because of the sins of others. Can you think of any Biblical examples? (See **2 Samuel 11 & 12**) What are some modern examples of people suffering because of the sins of others? What can we learn about the purpose of our own suffering from Scriptures like **1 Pet. 1:6-7; Rom. 8:18, & Romans 8:28**?

6. What kind of works was Jesus speaking of when He said, *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day"* (**vs. 4**)? What *"day"*? What was Jesus referring to when He said, *"the night is coming when no one can work"*? (See **Luke 23:26-46; 24:1-6**)

7. How did Jesus identify Himself in **verse 5**? Where else do we find Jesus identifying Himself this way? (See **John 8:12**) What did He mean? Who else is called to be the light of the world? (See **Matt. 5:14**) Are you sharing the light of Christ with those around you?

8. To illustrate the fact that Jesus was the light of the world – He would use this opportunity to bring physical light to a man who had only known darkness all of his life. What method do we find Jesus using in **verse 6** to heal the man? Note: Jesus healed four blind men in the gospel accounts using different methods. How were His methods in **Matt. 9:29-31** and **Mark 8:22-26** different from the method He used in **verse 6**?

9. The man was required to believe and obey Jesus in order to be healed. What did Jesus command the man to do in **verse 7**? How did the man's response differ from that of Naaman (commander of the army of the king of Syria)? (See **2 Kings 5:1-19**)

10. John MacArthur writes, *"The term 'Siloam is Heb. for 'Sent.' The pool of Siloam was SE of Jerusalem. Its water source was through a channel (Hezekiah's tunnel) that carried water to it from the spring of Gihon in the Kidron Valley. It may be identified with the 'lower pool' or 'old pool' mentioned in Isa 22:9-11. Water for the water-pouring rites at the Feast of Tabernacles was drawn from this pool."* It is interesting to note Jesus 'sent' the blind man to this pool. Who 'sent' Jesus to earth to give sight to the spiritually blind? (See **1 John 4:14**)

11. Why do you think Jesus used clay in creating the man's vision (**vs. 6**)? (See **Gen. 2:7**) How are the creative powers of Jesus demonstrated in this miracle?

Part II: The people bring the man to the Pharisees (John 9:8-17)

1. How did the people respond to the man following this miracle? (See **vv. 8 & 9**) Why did so many have a difficult time believing it was the same man who had been born blind? Had any miracle like this ever been done in the history of the world up to this point?
2. What question do we find the people asking the man in **verse 10**? What question should they have asked? Note: Rearrange the three letters in 'how' and you find the answer.
3. What did the healed man call Jesus at this early point in **chapter 9 (vs. 11)**? What is the theological meaning of the term, "*The hypostatic union of Christ?*" Note: It is important for us to understand that we have only one nature (human) while Jesus has two (God & Man).
4. What question did the people ask the man in **verse 12**? The man had heard the voice of Jesus, but at this point, had he ever seen the face of Jesus (**vv. 6 & 7**)?
5. Why do you think the people brought the healed man to the Pharisees (**vs. 13**)? Was it their intent to cause problems or were they celebrating the miracle? What significant event do we find in **verse 14**? Why was this an issue for the Pharisees?
6. First the people asked how the man was healed, now the Pharisees ask the same question (**vs. 15**). Note: The Pharisee's apparently placed their oral traditions above the law. Had Jesus committed a sin by healing the blind man on the Sabbath? (Note: The law did not prohibit acts of mercy and kindness on the Sabbath day.) (See **Luke 14:1-6**)

7. What conclusion did the Pharisees come to in **verse 16**? The people were divided in their opinion of Jesus and the power behind the miracle. What two major opinions do you see? Are people still divided over who Jesus is today? (See **Luke 14:25-27**) If so, how?

8. The healed man's opinion of Jesus develops throughout this chapter. In **verse 11** he called Jesus a Man. What does the healed call Jesus in **verse 17**? It is important to note the man did not have saving faith at this point, that will come later in the chapter.

Part III: The Pharisees interrogate both the man and his parents (John 9:18-25)

1. Did the Jews believe the testimony of the man and those who knew that he had been born blind (**vs. 18**)? Who did they call in for additional testimony? What was the response of the parents (**vv. 19-20**)? What can we learn about the man's parents from **verse 21**? Note: In **verses 21 & 22** we get a sense of the fear the parents (and the people) had towards the Jewish authorities and the power they held. What were the people most afraid of (**vs. 22**)? What does excommunication mean to you? How would excommunication affect their lives?

2. Have you ever backed down where you should have stood fast? What caused you to compromise your testimony? How did the man's parents pass the buck in **verse 23**? Note: Their fear of the Pharisees outweighed their gratefulness to Christ for the miracle performed on their son. Do you back down from your responsibility to share your faith in Christ with others because of fear of rejection or possible consequences?

3. In **verse 24**, the Pharisees called the man to testify as if he were on trial. What did they tell him to do? What did they mean by "*Give God the Glory!*" (See Commentaries) See **Josh 7**. Were the religious leaders neutral in their judgment or had they made up their minds?

4. The man's testimony is based on a fact in **verse 25**. What facet? The man could see physically at this point, but his eyes had not been opened yet spiritually, that will come later in the chapter. R.C. Sproul writes, *"The Bible uses the metaphor of blindness again and again for people who have never perceived the truth of Christ."* What can we learn about the spiritual blindness of unbelievers from **2 Cor. 4:3-4**? What is the only way that the spiritually blind can see? (See **John 3:3**; **2 Cor. 4:6**)

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Jesus meets the needs of people right where they are at.
- Jesus is the light of the world, and He has called His followers to be lights as well.
- Suffering may or may not be caused by a specific sin; in this case, it was for God's glory.
- Jesus required the man born blind to go to Pool of Siloam and wash the mud out of his eyes in faith; the man did exactly that without questioning Jesus and was healed.
- Jesus deliberately challenged the religious leaders by doing this miracle on the Sabbath day.
- The people feared the wrath of the false shepherds in **chapter 9** setting the tone for the teachings of Jesus on the Good Shepherd in **chapter 10**.
- The man born blind could now see physically thanks to Jesus; in the latter half of **chapter 9**, Jesus will open the man's eyes spiritually as he is born-again.