

Jesus Heals a Man who was Born Blind

John Chapter Nine

“Pharisees” = A sect of religious leaders among the Jews, noted for strict and formal religious observances, ceremonies, and traditions originating with Moses. However their motive was not to bring glory to God, but to build themselves up through a “*display of religion*”. Their self pronounced superiority led them to separate from other Jews. Threatened by Christ’s teaching and His growing following, the Pharisees were bitter and persistent enemies of Jesus. They could not bear his “*Light-shedding*” doctrines, and they sought to destroy Jesus’ influence among the people.

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. - John 1:5

Read John 9:1-12 *“Jesus Heals a Man who was Born Blind”*

v.2 – What did the disciples believe was the reason for this man’s inability to see? Recall Job’s friend: Job 4:7

v.3-5 – What was God’s purpose in permitting this affliction? Look up: Psalm 119:71

- A common belief in Jewish culture was that calamity or suffering was caused by some great sin (ex. Job’s friends).

- May physical suffering sometimes be the result of our own sin? Look up: 1 Corinthians 11: 32

- What ought our focus be even through suffering and trial?

Look up: 2 Corinthians 1:3-6, 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

v.7 – How did this blind man demonstrate his faith?

v.8 – There was a change in this man. People knew of his former condition, and after his encounter with Jesus he was changed. When we come to Jesus in faith our lives will be visibly changed by those we encounter.

Read John 9:13-34 *“Religious Leaders Question the Blind Man”*

v.13; 21-23 – To whom did the neighbors bring the healed man, and why did the parents compromise? Look at verse 22.

v.25 – This man did not know why he was healed, but he knew his life had been miraculously changed, and he was not afraid to tell the truth. We don’t need to know all the answers in order to share Christ with others. We can begin by telling others how Christ has changed our lives.

v.34-38 - The excommunication of the blind man prevented him from trying to live in two worlds. Being "put out" of our old group is undeniably painful, but it is usually spiritually helpful. Have you ever had such an experience?

Read John 9:35-41 *“Jesus Teaches about Spiritual Blindness”*

v.31 – This premise reflects a theme in several OT passages (Psalm 34:15; 66:18; 145:19).

v.35 – What did Jesus do when He heard that this man was cast out of the synagogue?

v.38 - The healed man’s awareness of who Jesus is increases: A man called Jesus (John 9:11), He is a prophet (John 9:17) , A man from God (John 9:33) , The Son of God, worthy of worship (John 9:38).

v.39-41 – What two types of people is Jesus referring to in these verses?

Those who admit their spiritual blindness can find sight in Jesus. But those who falsely claim to have spiritual sight will be made blind. Like the Pharisees, who confident in their own spiritual insight, scoffed at Jesus,(which was blindness) they could not see the Son of God right in front of them.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*