

## John 9 Healing the Man Born Blind

9 As Jesus passed by, He saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

4 We must carry out the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” 6 When He had said this, He spit on the ground, and made mud from the saliva, and applied the mud to his eyes, 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he left and washed, and came back seeing.

8 So the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is this not the one who used to sit and beg?” 9 Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” The man himself kept saying, “I am the one.” 10 So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made mud, and spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.” 12 And they said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

## Controversy over the Man

13 They brought the man who was previously blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, “He applied mud to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And there was dissension among them.

17 So they said again to the man who was blind, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” And he said, “He is a prophet. 18 The Jews then did not believe it about him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, 19 and they questioned them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?”

20 His parents then answered and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already reached the decision that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be excommunicated from the synagogue. 23 It was for this reason that his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

24 So for a second time they summoned the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." 25 He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

27 He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" 28 They spoke abusively to him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." 30 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is the amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes!

31 We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if someone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him. 32 Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and yet you are teaching us?" So they [i]put him out.

#### Jesus Affirms His Deity

35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and upon finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered by saying, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." 38 And he said, "I believe, Lord." And he worshiped Him. 39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." 40 Those who were with Him from the Pharisees heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now that you maintain, 'We see,' your sin remains.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

#### Paul's observations and insights

1. How did Jesus know this man was blind from birth?

2. The disciples want to use this man's blindness to unravel a spiritual conundrum – who caused his blindness?
3. They are thinking from the teaching of the Old Testament when God said, 'the children will bear the sins of the father's', but this law had been neutralised by God.
4. Jesus replies that it was for neither of these two reasons, but that God would be glorified.
5. So, was it God who had made the man blind? No, but having been blind, God in Jesus works a miracle in the man's eyes.
6. What is it to work the works of God?
7. Why does Jesus say, 'God can only work while it is still day, night time no-one can work'?
8. Jesus makes a bold declaration, He declares, 'I am the light of the world'.
9. Jesus makes medicine from the spit and uses it in the healing of the man.
10. As a blind man the only occupation open to him was to be a beggar and that was his name amongst the people.
11. The fact that this man could now see, brought confusion to the people who doubted it was the same man!
12. The man was convinced who he was and gave his personal testimony, but some don't believe him.
13. This healing took place on the Sabbath, so the Pharisees began to complain.
14. The man confirmed his story to the Pharisees and how Jesus had made him well, but they didn't believe him!
15. The religious spirit in the Pharisees was provoked by Jesus healing on the Sabbath.
16. Why did the Pharisees ask the man what he thought about Jesus and the miracle He had performed?
17. The Jews refused, or could not believe, that the man worked a miracle until they spoke to the blind man's parents.
18. The parents were prepared to confess this was their son but were not prepared to get into a debate regarding the healing.
19. Fear of being thrown out of the Synagogue was driving them to be cautious.
20. The religious Jews had already declared anyone confessing Him as Christ would be thrown out.
21. The parents answer to the Pharisees is, 'he is of age', it means he could take the responsibility for himself in his confession.
22. The Pharisees want Jesus to be seen as a sinner against the law so as they can accuse Him.
23. Even after pressing the man again and again, the man only knows one thing, that it was Jesus who had healed him.
24. It is because the man's answers to the Pharisees were irritating them, because it neutralised what their intentions were.
25. The Pharisees are outraged by the man's answers.

26. The Pharisees align themselves with Moses and his teachings, Jesus says, 'that is a strange thing, if you were aligned then you would keep what you said'.
27. The people talking on the street asked the question, 'does God work through sinners? They know only the prayers of a righteous man accomplish much.'
28. What is a 'God fearing' person?
29. 'From the beginning no man can work miracles and yet through Jesus God worked one in me', says the man.
30. This provoked the Pharisees to anger, as he says, 'do you want to be one of His followers?'
31. His thinking is, if He is not from God, He could not work miracles! At this they put him out of the temple.
32. Later Jesus finds the man and asks, 'do you believe in the Son of Man?'
33. The man responds by saying, 'who is He Lord, so I can believe in Him?'
34. And Jesus reveals Himself as the one who worked the miracle. The man responds and says, 'Lord, I believe' and he worships Him.
35. Jesus said, 'the seeing will become blind and the blind will see'.
36. Because they could not get past the thoughts in their hearts, they became blind.
37. The rebellious blind are they that think they can see, but can't!