



John 9:1-3, 6, 7 (NIV)

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁶ Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" ... So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

The Disciples' Question

"Who sinned, the man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (v. 2)

Jesus states clearly that this man's blindness has nothing to do with his sin or the sin of his parents. Jesus responds to the man with compassion. In fact, God shows his love and pours out his blessings in spite of our sinfulness.

Jesus Heals the Man

- Jesus spits on the ground, makes mud, and tells the man to go wash off the mud. The man goes, washes, and leaves seeing for the first time in his life.

The Neighbors' Question

How then were your eyes opened? (v. 10)

How the Pharisees Saw It

This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath. (v. 16)

The Pharisees were not upset that Jesus healed the man. They were upset with the way Jesus healed him. Still, they missed the whole point. They were in the presence of a miracle and couldn't even see it. Their beef was that Jesus healed him on the wrong day!

The Pharisees Question the Parents

Is this your son? They asked. Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see? (v. 19)

The Pharisees and the Man Face Off in a Heated Exchange

Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him

and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!"²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes..."³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

John 9:24-30, 33, 34 (NIV)

Think about it. Who is seeing and who is blind in this story? The man born blind sees more clearly than the religious leaders. For all their knowledge of the Scriptures, they missed the kingdom, and a poor blind man found it. His eyes were opened; theirs remained closed. You can enter the kingdom physically blind, but you can't enter spiritually blind.

Notes

Sources: *Blindness and Light* by Rod Buchanan; *The Daily Study Bible Series*; *The Gospel of John* by William Barclay; *The Communicators Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Roger Fredrikson; *More Jesus, Less Religion* by Steve Arterburn