



## Healing the Man Born Blind John 9:1–38 (NIV)

### Verse 1

*As (Jesus) went along, he saw a man blind from birth.*

- The only story in the gospels where we are told that the one who was healed had suffered with the condition from birth.

### Verse 2

*His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

- The Jews taught that sin and punishment were directly related. They believed that sickness, birth defects, mental illness and the like were punishments from God for a sin that either you or your parents committed.

### Verse 3

*Neither this man nor his parents sinned . . . but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.*

- Jesus made it clear that the man’s blindness had nothing to do with sin.
- Taken out of context of the gospels, the second part of the verse may sound as if God caused the man’s blindness in order for Jesus to heal him. This kind of thinking is theologically dangerous.
- In the context of the gospels, Jesus performed miracles to demonstrate the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

## The Healing

### Verses 6 and 7

*After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” . . . So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.*

## Questioned By the Neighbors

### Verses 8–12

*His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.*

- The man is healed and returns home seeing for the first time.
- The neighbors don’t appear to be very happy for the man. Instead, they set him up for an inquisition.

## Questioned By the Pharisees

### Verses 13–17

*They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.*

*Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”*

- Strike One: The \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus used to heal the man was considered work.
- Strike Two: It was forbidden to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sabbath.
- Strike Three: It was forbidden to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sabbath.

#### Pharisees Question His Parents

##### Verses 18–22

(The Pharisees) *still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.*

- The neighbors, the parents—everybody seems to be afraid of the Pharisees, except the man who was healed.
- It doesn't seem that the parents are thrilled that their boy, who was blind, can now see for the first time in his life.

#### Pharisees Question the Man Again

##### Verses 24–34

*A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." 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?" 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?"*

- The man was clearly frustrated. He could see for the first time in his life and all the Pharisees cared about were their silly rules.

*Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."*

- The Pharisees, who were supposed to have all the religious answers, admit they didn't know about the one with the power to open the eyes of the blind.

*The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.*

#### Jesus and the Healed Man

##### Verses 35–38

*Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.*

#### The Progression of the Healed Man's Faith

- First, he called Jesus a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*The man they call Jesus . . . (v. 11)*
- Then, he called Jesus a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*He is a prophet. (v. 17)*
- Finally, he called Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Lord, I believe . . . (v. 38)*