
The Healing Of A Man Born Blind

John 8:59-9:41

This particular healing miracle of **Christ** is recorded only by **John**. The actual miracle is recorded in **verses 1-7**, and the rest of the chapter is the record of several discussions that occurred as a result of the miracle. This miracle took place in **Jerusalem**, somewhere in the vicinity of the Temple. It is recorded in **John 8:59** that **Jesus** left the Temple, having spoken the words of **John 8**, and it was at this time that He came into contact with a certain blind man; *“And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind” (verse 1)*. In **John 8**, **Christ** is *“the light of the world” (verse 12)* exposing darkness, and in **John 9**, **Christ** is *“the light of the world” (verse 5)* communicating light!

I. THE MIRACULOUS CURE OF THE BLIND MAN

① **The Condition Of This Man:**

○ *He Was Blind:*

This man's **blindness** is said to be blind twelve times (**verses 1, 2, 6, 8, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 32**). This man's blindness was confirmed beyond a doubt! **THIS MAN LIVED IN DARKNESS!** **Jesus** would later in the chapter tell the **Pharisees** that there is a **blindness far worse than having sightless eyes. IT IS FAR WORSE TO BE IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS!** And that is the place where the entire human race apart from **Jesus Christ** finds itself! Throughout the **Word of God**, **darkness** is used to represent sin, evil, wickedness, corruption, guilt, error, ignorance, sorrow, misery, that which is Satanic, and death. In light of this; it is declared in **I John 1:5** *“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”* **Darkness** is used to speak of the state of the unregenerate (**I Thessalonians 5:4-5**). **Darkness is the condition of all by nature!** This unregenerate state of **darkness** is clearly illustrated throughout Scripture by such phrases as; *“them which are in darkness” (Romans 2:19)*, *“them that sit (settled) in darkness” (Luke 1:79)*, *“he that walketh (living in) in darkness” (John 12:35)*, *“full of darkness” (Matthew 6:23)*, *“men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19)*, *“For ye were sometimes darkness” (Ephesians 5:8)*. From these, it is manifest that the unregenerate are **in darkness, sit in darkness, walk in darkness, are covered with darkness, and love darkness, and are darkness!** This **darkness** is so powerful, so great, and so thick that **Jesus** said in **John 1:5** *“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not”* **THIS DARKNESS IS THE CONDITION OF ALL BY NATURE!**

○ *He Was Born Blind:*

Five times this man is described as being **blind from birth (verses 1, 2, 19, 20, 32)**. **THIS MAN HAD LIVED HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN DARKNESS!** The only thing this man ever knew was **darkness**, and he without a doubt was accustomed to the **darkness!**

○ *He Was Poor:*

The neighbors of this man not only confirmed his **blindness**, but remembered him as one who had **“sat and begged” (verse 8)**. This man not only lived in **darkness**, but **HE LIVED A LIFE OF DESTITUTION!** The **unsaved sinner** has a sin-debt, and is spiritually destitute and bankrupt, with nothing to offer (**Jeremiah 5:4; Ephesians 2:12**).

② **Jesus Took Notice Of This Blind And Poverty Stricken Man:**

“And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth” (verse 1). The man did not see **Jesus**, for he had no capacity to do so, being blind. **THE LORD WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK THE INITIATIVE!** **Christ** saw him, just as He saw the **widow woman of Nain (Luke 7:13)**, **Zacchaeus (Luke 19:5)**, and the **crippled man (John 5:6)**, He saw this **blind man** with an eye of **love**, with an eye of **compassion**, with an eye of **grace** and **mercy**, and with an eye of **intent** and **purpose!** **HAD NOT THE LORD SEEN HIM; NOTHING WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!**

③ **Jesus Declares His Purpose:**

Upon seeing this blind man, the **disciples** asked **Jesus** a question concerning the cause of his blindness (**verse 2**). Their question was based upon the false assumption that this man's blindness could be attributed directly to the fact that someone had sinned, that his blindness was the result of punishment for sin. The question was asked; void of compassion, and perhaps with a degree of self-righteousness and superiority! **Jesus**, in His answer to their question says **“Neither hath this man (the blind man) sinned, nor his parents” (verse 3)**. This does not mean that the blind man or his parents had never sinned, but that **sin was not the reason for this man's blindness!** He then states the reason for this man's blindness; **“but that the works of God should be made manifest in him” (verse 3)**. Suffering, may only be, **“that the works of God should be made manifest”** One thing for certain; **GOD HAS HIS OWN WISE REASONS FOR PERMITTING SUFFERING!** **Jesus**, in His answer reveals His earthly mission (**verses 4-5**).

④ **The Manner Of The Cure Of The Blind Man:**

Jesus prepares eye-salve; **“He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle” (verse 6)**. **Jesus** could have just spoken a word and brought sight to this man, but He chose this method instead, showing that He is not limited to any one means of doing the miraculous! **Jesus** then made application of the eye-salve to the blind man; **“and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay” (verse 6)**. **THE POWER WAS NOT IN THE CLAY, BUT IN THE PERSONAL ANOINTING OF THE LORD!** He then gave

directions to the blind man; *“And He said unto him, Go wash in the pool of Siloam” (verse 7a)*. The water of this pool had no healing power, it was no different than any other water! This command of **Christ** was a **test of this man’s faith!**The blind man obeyed the direction of **Christ**; *“He went his way therefore (because the Lord told him to do so), and washed” (verse 7b)*. The man in his blindness, made his way to *“the pool of Siloam”* and in his blindness washed himself! **THIS BLIND MAN OBEYED THE INSTRUCTION OF CHRIST!** He obeyed, not because he believed that there was special power in *“the pool of Siloam”* but because **HE BELIEVED IN THE POWER OF THE ONE WHO TOLD HIM TO GO AND WASH!** **The man was healed; “and came seeing” (verse 7c)**. **IT WAS THE POWER OF GOD THAT CAUSED HIM TO OBEY, AND THE POWER OF GOD THAT GAVE HIM SIGHT!** He made his way to *“the pool of Siloam”* in the darkness of blindness, but **HE RETURNED SEEING!** Due to the power of **Christ**; **THIS MAN HAS BEEN CHANGED!**

5 **The Blind Man’s Healing Is Confirmed Throughout The Chapter:**

Again, it is stated twelve times that this man was blind (**verses 1, 2, 6, 8, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 32**), and it is stated fifteen times, one way or another that **he was blind no more!** It is confirmed; *“he came seeing” (verse 7)*, and *“aforetime was blind” (verse 13)*. *“And it was on the sabbath day when Jesus.....opened his eyes” (verse 14)*. *“him that had received his sight” (verse 18)*. The man’s neighbors confirmed by asking him *“How were thine eyes opened?” (verse 10)*. The blind man himself confirmed, *“I received sight” (verse 11)*, *“I washed and do see” (verse 15)*, *“I was blind, now I see” (verse 25)*, *“he hath opened mine eyes” (verse 30)*. The man’s parents confirmed, *“By what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes we know not” (verse 21)*. The **Pharisees** confirmed the man’s healing by asking his parents; *“how then doth he now see?” (verse 19)*, and by their questions to the blind man; *“how he had received his sight” (verse 15)*, *“What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes?” (verse 17)*, *“how opened he thine eyes?” (verse 26)*, and by their statement in **verse 32!** **THIS MAN WHO HAD LIVED HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN DARKNESS NOW SEES!** A life-altering change had been brought about as a result of a personal encounter with **Christ**, and the change is verified and affirmed by the man himself, and by those who knew him and observed him!

II. THE DISCOURSES OCCASIONED BY THIS MIRACLE

1 **A Discourse Of The Neighbors Among Themselves And With The Blind Man:**

This is recorded in **verses 8-12**; *“The neighbors.....and they which before had seen him that he was blind” (verse 8)*. These had seen this man in his **blind condition**, and no doubt were amazed when they saw **the change that had been brought about in this man’s life**. The change was so drastic, that they could hardly believe that it was him, and they began to discuss amongst themselves whether or not it was him (**verses 8-9**). The man who had been blind testified *“I am he” (verse 9)*, which caused them to

ask “*How were thine eyes opened?*” (**verse 10**). The man who had been blind testified of what he had experienced (**verse 11**). THE MANIFEST CHANGE IN THIS MAN’S LIFE, LED TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY OF THE LORD!

② A Discourse Between The Pharisees And The One Who Had Been Blind:

The man who had been blind, and had lived his entire life in darkness is brought to the **Pharisees** (**verse 13**), and they questioned him concerning **how he had received his sight**, and again, the man who had been blind, testified what he had experienced (**verse 15**). His testimony caused a stir amongst the **Pharisees** (**verse 16**), and then they asked the man who had been blind what He had to say about the One who opened his eyes (**verse 17**). Again, BECAUSE OF A MANIFEST CHANGE, THERE WAS YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY!

③ A Discourse Between The Pharisees And The Parents Of The One Who Had Been Blind:

The **Pharisees** doubted whether or not this man had ever been blind, so “*they called the parents of him that had received his sight*” (**verse 18**). They asked the parents two questions; “*Is this your son, who ye say was born blind?*” and “*How then doth he now see?*” (**verse 19**). The parents gave their answer, and fearing that they would be put out of the synagogue, suggested that the **Pharisees** ask their son directly (**verses 20-23**).

④ Another Discourse Between The Pharisees And The One Who Had Been Blind:

Following the questioning of his parents, and upon the suggestion of the parents, the one who had been blind, is brought again before the **Pharisees**, and he is ridiculed (**verse 24**), and once again the man testified of his personal experience of healing; “*one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see*” (**verse 25**). They then asked him two questions; “*What did he do to thee?*” and “*How opened he thine eyes?*” (**verse 26**). Again, BECAUSE OF A MANIFEST CHANGE, THERE WAS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY! The man who had been blind responded by saying “*you are not listening to what I am saying*” (**verse 27**), and this was followed by more ridicule of the man, and a discussion concerning the Person of **Christ**, which led to the man being expelled from the **Temple** (**verses 28-34**).

⑤ A Discourse Between Christ And He Who Had Been Blind:

Following the casting out of the man who had been blind, **Jesus** came to him in **grace** and **mercy**, and revealed Himself to him, causing this man to believe with greater assurance, and to worship Him (**verses 35-38**).

⑥ A Discourse Between Christ And The Pharisees:

Some of the **Pharisees** had heard what **Christ** said to the one who had been blind (**verse 39**), and they asked “*Are we blind also?*” (**verse 40**). **Jesus** revealed their condition with His answer (**verse 41**). **Jesus** said to them “*If you knew that you were*

blind, or if you knew your true condition, you would come to me, or see your need of me, and you would be forgiven, but because you think you can see, or because you do not realize your desperate condition, you do not come to me, and you are still in your sins”

This miracle, like all the healing miracles of **Christ is a type of salvation** that is in **Christ** and **Christ** alone! The one who had been delivered from his blindness, **attributed all to Christ (verses 11, 15, 30)**. **He unashamedly testified of what he experienced, and grew in knowledge of Christ, and he worshipped Christ!** **THIS MAN HAD A STORY TO TELL ABOUT JESUS!**
