

Men's Sunday Night Live
Lesson 9 - John 9:1-41
Finding Identity and Purpose
The Blind Man Calls Their Bluff

This chapter presents the sixth of seven special miracles recorded in John's Gospel as witnesses to Christ's deity. The first three signs show how a person is saved: through the Word (water to wine), by faith (healing the nobleman's son), and by grace (healing the paralytic). The last four signs show the results of salvation: satisfaction (feeding the 5,000), peace (stilling the storm), light (healing the blind man), and life (raising Lazarus).

About the only thing a blind man could do in that day was beg, and that is what this man was doing when Jesus passed by. No doubt there were many blind people who would have rejoiced to be healed, but Jesus selected this man. Apparently, the man and his parents were well known in the community. It was on the Sabbath when Jesus healed the man, so that once again He was upsetting and deliberately challenging the religious leaders. The disciples were sure that the man's blindness was caused by sin, either his own or his parents', but Jesus disagreed with them.

The religious leaders had let it be known that anyone who confessed Christ openly would be cast out of the synagogue. This meant, of course, losing friends and family and all the benefits of the Jewish religion. It was this declaration that forced the blind man's parents and neighbors to "beat around the bush" when asked about his amazing cure. They eventually removed the man from the synagogue. It would have been easy for the son to hide his confession and thus avoid controversy, but he fearlessly stood his ground. He knew what a difference Christ had made in his life, and he could not deny it. The man did not realize it then, but the safest place for him was outside the Jewish religion. The Jews cast him out, but Christ took him in! Like Paul, this man "lost his religion" but found salvation and went to heaven.

The same light that leads one person can blind another. The Pharisees admitted that they could see, and therefore they were guilty because they rejected the evidence and would not receive Christ. The Gospel brings about different reactions from different kinds of hearts: the blind sinner receives the truth and sees; the self-righteous religious person rejects the truth and becomes even more blind spiritually. It is a dangerous thing to reject the light.

Read John 9:1-41 and answer the following questions

1. What question did the disciples asked Jesus as they passed by the blind man?
2. How does Jesus answer the question of sin in the blind man's life? What does He say about the reason for this man's blindness?
3. How can this help us to answer questions when people ask us, "Why do good people have to suffer in this world," or "why do bad things happen to good people?"
4. How did Jesus restore the man's sight? When did the healing actually take effect?
5. Why do you think Jesus used dirt and made spit balls to heal the man instead of simply saying, "you are healed"?

6. The Pharisees at first, wanted to know exactly what Jesus did to heal the blind man. Once the blind man identified Jesus as a prophet, how did their tone in questioning change?

7. When the Pharisees questioned the man's parents, they acknowledged that he was born blind, but they did not know how he regained his sight. Why do his parents direct the Pharisees to ask their son instead of answering themselves? (See 9:20-21)

8. When the Pharisees interview the man a second time, what accusation do they make about Jesus? (See 9:24) When this man didn't change his story about how Jesus healed him, how did the Pharisees respond?

9. What did the Pharisees end up doing to the healed blind man? Does something like this happen to those that become believers today? Explain?

10. When Jesus heard that they cast the man out, He found him and asked, "*Do you believe in the Son of Man?*" The man than asked Jesus, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus responded, "*You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.*" How does the man respond?

11. In verse 39, what does Jesus say about the reason that He came into the world? How does this purpose fit with Jesus statement in John 8:12, 9:15?

Jesus Heals the Blind Man

The sixth sign miracle seen here in John's Gospel reveals Jesus as the light of the world. He was also unique among the prophets in that none of them had cured blindness.

The healing of the blind man speaks to the issue of human suffering. At that time, sickness was often assumed to be divine punishment for someone's sin. Like Job's counselors, Jesus' disciples asked, "Whose sin caused this man's blindness?" Here Jesus replies with a radically new truth. God can use human suffering to reveal His glory. Jesus immediately shows what He was talking about by healing the man's blindness, revealing Himself to be the Son of God.