



DIGGING DEEPER

The Man Formerly Known as Blind

John 9 (Adapted for Reading in Parts)

- Narrator: The blind man's neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked,
- Neighbors: "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"
- Narrator: Some claimed that he was. Others said,
- Others: "No, he only looks like him."
- Narrator: But he himself insisted,
- Blind man: "I am the man."
- Others: "How then were your eyes opened?"
- Blind man: "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."
- Others: "Where is this man?"
- Blind man: "I don't know."
- Narrator: 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,
- Pharisees: "How did you receive your sight?"
- Narrator: The man replied,
- Blind man: "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see."
- Narrator: Some of the Pharisees said,
- Some Pharisees: "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."
- Narrator: But others asked,
- Other Pharisees: "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?"
- Narrator: So they were divided. Finally they turned again to the blind man and said,
- All Pharisees: "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."
- Blind man: "He is a prophet."

- Narrator: The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. They asked,
- Jews: "Is this your son? Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"
- Parents: "We know he is our son, 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."
- Narrator: His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." A second time they summoned the man who had been blind.
- All Pharisees: "Give glory to God! We know this man is a sinner."
- Blind man: "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"
- All Pharisees: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"
- Blind man: "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?"
- Narrator: Then they hurled insults at him and said,
- All Pharisees: "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."
- Blind man: "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 man 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."
- Narrator: To this they replied,
- All Pharisees: "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!"
- Narrator: And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said,
- Jesus: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Blind man: "Who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him."
- Jesus: "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."
- Narrator: Then the man said,
- Blind man: "Lord, I believe,"
- Narrator: and he worshiped him.

CROSS-CHECKING



The Cure for Darkness: Light

Look at the blind spots you wrote on your sunglasses. Now picture yourself as the blind man at the beginning of John 9. In fact, take a minute to reread John 9:1-7. Visualize Jesus passing you by...stopping for a moment...then healing your blindness.

Did you know that Jesus still heals “blind spots” today? Pick *one* of the passages below, and as you read, notice what it says about how God brings light into darkness. After reading, write a short prayer to him about your own blind spot. It can be a confession, a request, or a prayer of thanksgiving. Be as honest as you’d like; You won’t be forced to share with the group.

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:5-18 (It’s a big chunk, but it’s worth it!)

Or: Ephesians 5:8-14

Or: 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8

MY PRAYER:

Take a second to read John 9:35-38 from your Bible. Then picture the blind man just after he was cast out of the synagogue (thrown out of church). Since the synagogue was the hub of social and religious activity, this was a pretty lonely moment for a Jewish guy. Put yourself in his shoes. Think about being cut off from things such as restaurants, MySpace, school friends, etc. Now imagine the moment when Jesus finds you—and for the first time, you lay eyes on the one who healed you!

Now do what the blind man did. Worship Jesus! Write out a prayer below that reflects your heart. What in your life is similar to the life of the blind man in John 9? How has Jesus healed you?