

John 9:1-41 – He Once was Blind but then He Saw

Chapter 9 is a contrast to the healing in chapter five. One of the few things these two healings had in common was that they both occurred on the Sabbath. The Pharisees and other Jewish religious leaders had just picked up stones to stone Jesus. Jesus left the temple and came across a man born blind. This man born blind was part of one of the Father's works which he had given Jesus to accomplish. Jesus gave sight to the man born blind. Now the Pharisees had a big problem. This would make Jesus more popular than ever with the people while they were seeking to kill him. They tried to spin the miracle in their favor but it didn't work out for them.

Read John 9:1-12.

What did the disciples believe about why people were blind? What reason did Jesus give for why the man was born blind? (9:1-5)

Sickness came into the world when Adam sinned. In that respect, sickness is a result of sin. Sometimes God dealt with someone's sin through illness. David and Bathsheba's first son died. 2 Samuel 12:15-18 says that God afflicted the child, the child became ill and died after seven days. The book of Job teaches us that Job's illness and troubles were not because of anything he did against God. Some people believe it is all one way or all the other. That is not what scripture teaches and it was not what Jesus taught. Jesus, full of grace and truth, spoke these words of grace in the hearing of the blind man, "It was not that this man sinned or his parents." I doubt he had ever heard anyone say that to him, apart from possibly his parents. Did Jesus' death on the cross nullify the statement that he made to the man born blind?

What did Jesus mean when he said "we must work the works of him who sent me while it is day"? (9:4-5)

What did Jesus do to the blind man? What did Jesus say to the blind man? Why do you think Jesus chose to heal him in this way? How did the blind man respond to Jesus' directions? Why do you think he responded this way? (9:6-7)

When the people who knew him from before asked him how he could now see, notice that the former blind man first answered the question, "who healed you?" How did this former blind man know that Jesus is the one who gave him his sight? Why didn't the man know where Jesus was? (9:8-12)

Read John 9:13-34.

When the former blind man was brought to the Pharisees, the Pharisees didn't want Jesus to get recognition for this miracle. They had just tried to kill Jesus. What was their first attempt to nullify the miracle? When the attempt created a division among them, they hoped that maybe the former blind man would give them an out. What did the former blind man say about Jesus? (9:13-17)

What was the Pharisees' second attempt to nullify Jesus' miracle of giving sight to a man born blind? How did it work out for the Pharisees? What was the consequence for someone who said that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ)? (9:18-23)

What was the Pharisees' third attempt to nullify Jesus' miracle? What did they want the former blind man to say about how he received his sight? What did the former blind man know? What did he not know? What did the Pharisees claim to know? What did they not know? The Pharisees were proud that they were disciples of Moses. Did God want them to be disciples of Moses? They didn't realize what they were saying. If they had literally followed Moses, they would have died in the wilderness without entering the Promised Land. If they had literally followed Joshua (Jesus), they would have entered into the Promised Land? (9:24-33)

What did the Pharisees reveal about why they thought the man had been born blind? What did they do to this man? (9:34) What was the significance of this miraculous sign? (8:12)

Read John 9:35-41.

After the former blind man's grilling by the Pharisees, Jesus found him? What did Jesus say to the man who received his sight? How did the former blind man respond to Jesus? (9:35-38)

Jesus came to save the world but his being in the world also brought judgment. In verse 39, what does this mean, "that those who do not see may see and that those who see may become blind"? How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus' statement? How did Jesus respond to the Pharisee's implication that they were fine as they were? (9:39-41)

Compare and contrast John chapter nine with the healing in John chapter five.