



The Light of the World

John 9

Healing Experienced

- ❑ Read John 9:1-12. Physical healing was a part of Jesus' earthly ministry. It was part of the Messiah's¹ "job description" in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. When John the Baptist sent the question to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?", Jesus replied...
 - 📖 "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor." (*Matthew 11:3-5, NIV; Isaiah 35:5-6; 53:4; 61:1*)
- ❑ The man in this story was "blind from birth," making his situation seem even more hopeless.
 1. What was the disciples' question about this man? (9:2) What does it reveal about their understanding concerning the causes of sickness and disease?² What do *you* believe?
 2. How did Jesus answer their question?³ (9:3) What did he mean?



- ❑ Jesus initiated contact with the blind man, and he applied the mud to his eyes. But the man had to do something in order to experience the healing (11:7a). The man listened to Jesus, and obeyed his instructions, and was healed (11:7b).⁴
- ❑ The condition of this man is the condition of *all* men and women – in a *spiritual* sense. We are *all* born spiritually blind; that is, blind to God's revelation of truth, love, and holiness; blind to the truths that bring meaning, purpose, direction, hope, and salvation to our lives.
 - 📖 *But Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (*John 8:12*)

Healing Examined

- ❑ Read John 9:13-34. This healing was extraordinary, and it was perceived to have religious significance, so they brought the man to the Pharisees⁵ – the ones with authority in the local synagogue.⁶ The Pharisees had different views on this matter, so they were divided.⁷

¹ 'Messiah' means 'anointed one.' The Old Testament prophecies said *the* Messiah (a great king) would deliver God's people and establish God's rule (kingdom). The Greek word for Messiah is *Christos*, translated 'Christ.'

² It is true that sickness and disease are a result of sin, because they are results of a fallen world and the world is fallen because of sin. But that does not mean that every bad thing can be traced to a particular sin! When something bad happens, it is certainly human to ask, Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? What did I do (he do, she do) to deserve this? But if we believe that God is sovereign and good (and He is), we should ask the question, how might God work in this situation? How might the works of God be displayed through this situation or person?

³ While the disciples focused on the cause, Jesus focused on how God purposed to use this man's situation.

⁴ How many people have failed to be healed, comforted, or helped because they have not listened and obeyed?

⁵ 'Pharisees' – Jewish religious party known for strict observance of their own interpretations of the Jewish law.

⁶ 'synagogue' – the meeting place of Jews for worship and instruction.

⁷ One group focused on the supposed Sabbath violation. It was against their rules to heal on the Sabbath (unless life was endangered). Also, kneading was prohibited, and the making of a mud ball might be considered kneading. So one group concluded that 'the man called Jesus' must be a sinner, and sinners do not heal. The other group focused on the miracle, and found it hard to believe that this Healer could be a sinner.

- ❑ The supposed “experts” were divided, so they asked the one who experienced the healing. He said boldly, “He is a prophet.”(9:17) They still would not believe. So they called for the man’s parents, and they confirmed this was their son, and that he was born blind. But they were afraid to say much more because they feared being put out of the synagogue. (9:20-22)
 - ❑ The evidence was overwhelming, but the Pharisees would not believe. They called for the man a second time, and said, “[Honor God] by telling the truth” (9:24a).” But they would accept only *their* version of truth. The Pharisees were convinced that “this man [Jesus] is a sinner” (9:24b).
3. How did the healed man respond? (9:25)⁸ As Christians, how might this apply to us today when our faith is challenged?⁹
 4. Why do you think the Pharisees would not believe the healed man’s story? How did they eventually deal with the matter? (9:28, 34)¹⁰



Healing Explained

- ❑ Read John 9:35-41. This is not just a story about physical healing. The physical healing is important in itself, but it points to something deeper – *spiritual* healing, *spiritual* sight.
5. What did the healed man need to do to receive spiritual healing? (9:35-38)¹¹
 6. What was the Pharisees’ problem? (9:35-41)
- ❑ Verses 39-41 describe two conditions: 1) “The blind” are those who are spiritually blind and know it, and thus are receptive to the Light. 2) “Those who see” are those who *think* they see, but are really spiritually blind. As Proverbs 26:12 says, “Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them.”

The Light & You

- How is *your* spiritual sight? Are you “seeing” (through the eyes of faith) the spiritual truths concerning God and Jesus? Is your sight leading you into the light or into the darkness? Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead so that we could be rescued from the darkness. Do you need to receive the “light of the world” (Jesus) as Lord and Savior?
- Brothers and sisters, how is your spiritual focus? Are you walking in the light? Is it evident in your daily life? Read Ephesians 5:8-20. Make a fresh commitment to “Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord” (*Ephesian 5:8b-10, NIV*).

⁸ The Pharisees were totally convinced of their own beliefs, saying ‘we know...!’ The healed man’s answer was good. It was basically, ‘Okay, I don’t know everything. But one thing I *do* know ...I was blind but now I see!’

⁹ The man gave personal testimony of his miraculous healing. Every Christian has experienced the miracle of salvation, and can give testimony of that fact. However, the man did not stop there. He made a reasonable argument for the fact that Jesus was not a sinner as they claimed, but rather came from God (9:30-33).

¹⁰ They could not win the argument, so they discredited him, and used (or misused) their authority to throw him out.

¹¹ ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ means ‘Will you put your trust in the one who is the heavenly Son of man who brings salvation?’ The man was willing. The man had now seen Jesus physically, and as Jesus revealed himself to the man, he saw him spiritually as the Savior, and he worshiped him.