

The Man Blind from Birth

“Unknown by Name”



“He replied, ‘I know nothing about that one way or the oth-

er. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see.’

They said, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ ‘I’ve told you over and over and you haven’t listened.

Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?’ With that they jumped all over him.

‘You might be a disciple of that man, but we’re disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from.’”

John 9:25-28 The Message

The story of the blind man as told to us in John, Chapter 9 has many promises for us as well. The disciples asked Christ why this man was blind. Was it because he had sinned, or that his parents had sinned. They thought he had

been born blind for some sin he or his family committed. Jesus told them that neither the man nor his parents had sinned to cause this blindness, but that God’s work would be manifested through this blindness. Through the bad, God can make good, just as he does with us. But Christ’s healing the blind man went much deeper than just the actual healing. He did it on the Sabbath! Christ spit on the ground, made clay, and anointed the eyes of the blind man. He told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. The man did as Christ had told him and he could see. His neighbors who had known him as the blind beggar asked him how this had happened. He told them that Jesus had made clay, put it on his eyes, and told him to go to the pool of Siloam. The key verse tells us that the blind man was willing to do as Christ had commanded him.

The Pharisees were upset. After all, they were a controlling group, and now this young man named Jesus was pulling people away from their control. And he wasn’t working with them. He was working with the poor, the lame, and the “lower” class. They had to find something about him that they could use to try to stop this message of Jesus that was spreading in the local area like wild fire. Then, they had a thought! The Pharisees also asked the young man how he had received his sight. He told them the same thing he had told his neighbors. Then the Pharisees said Christ could not be of God, because he healed on the Sabbath day.



They claimed he had violated the laws of Moses, and they kept the laws of Moses so they were sure he was not of God. And there was a division among them. Therefore, he was a sinner and a sinner wouldn’t be able to do such miracles. The Pharisees approached the parents to get their input. We must remember that the parents were afraid of the Jews because they ruled with an iron hand. The parents responded that all they knew was that their son had been blind from birth, but now he could see. The parents told the Pharisees to ask the young man; he was of age. Their son responded as seen in the scripture above – with the same answer he had given the neighbors. The story does not end with the giving of sight as we know it today.

“I wish for all of us the blindness of love that makes us see no faults in others.”
Kojouri

The Pharisees wanted to find something to get control of this man who claimed to be the Messiah. They called the young man in a second time and questioned him; he did not change his story. When they could not get him to say that Christ was a sinner they threw him out on the street. Jesus went to the young man and asked him if he believed in the Son of Man. The young man answered, *“Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?”* Then Christ told him that it was he, the one who had given him his physical sight. The young man said *“I believe.”* Now the Pharisees were really upset. They accused Christ of calling them blind. This was the opportunity that Christ wanted! He told them that if they were blind they would be blameless, but since they knew the truth they were accountable for every fault and failure. So, are we all accountable for the sins we knowingly commit every day?

Christ had performed many miracles that day. We think of the one about the blind man seeing, but what about the miracle of changing hearts of the young man’s parents, his neighbors, and perhaps even some of the Pharisees.

Through this story and many others of people who were not “important” enough to have a name we see the early working of Christ that led to his disciples taking the Message into the entire world that we might have the same sight as this young man, blind from birth.

As quoted so eloquently by Helen Keller it is so much worse to not have vision than sight. The Pharisees had no vision at that time.

As Paul wrote to the people of Corinth, so we have vision for today and the future. *“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”* 1 Corinthians 13:11-12.

“When I was a child, kids used to make fun of me because I was blind. But I just became more curious, 'How can I climb this tree and get an apple for this girl?' That's what mattered to me.”

Stevie Wonder

“We were never created to settle for mere religion. Jesus did not die so that we could have a religious belief system – but rather a life-giving relationship with our Father.”

Christine Caine

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Please help us to realize the great gifts you have given to us and help us to use those gifts to help others so they can accept the gift of eternal life you have prepared for us. Help us to accept each day in faith, and seek to do your will here on earth with the assurance that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. In name of Jesus Christ we pray.

1. Have you had the privilege of seeing God’s grace through the handicap of another person?
2. In Matthew 12, we have another example of Christ healing on the Sabbath. What was the purpose of Christ’s healing? Was its being done on the Sabbath important?
3. How should we keep the Sabbath? Is it just another day to catch-up on what we didn’t get done through the week?
4. What does the Scripture mean that man was not made for the Sabbath, but that the Sabbath was made for man?
5. When Milton, the famous poet went blind in his later years, he wrote. “They also serve who only stand and wait.” How does that apply to us today?

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“Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but you've actually been planted there for a reason.”
Christine Caine