

A. THE MAN IS HEALED.

1. (John 9:1-2) the disciples ask a question.
 - a. **Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?** The disciples regarded this man as an unsolved riddle; but Jesus regarded him as a suffering person needing relief.
2. (John 9:3-5) Jesus responds to the question, without answering it.
 - a. **Neither this man nor his parents sinned:** Jesus' response was "I'm not here to answer such questions, but to do the work of God in alleviating such suffering while I can."
 - i. This is an answer consistent with the spirit of the book of Job. Sometimes, God intentionally leaves us without knowledge regarding the source or reason behind pain.
 - b. **While it is day:** If we neglect our opportunities for service, they may be lost forever.
3. (John 9:6-7) the man is healed.
 - a. **He spat ... and He anointed the eyes:** In this miracle, Jesus took all the initiative. The blind man did not come to Jesus and ask to be healed, Jesus came to Him. Still, He expected the blind man to respond in faith (**Go; wash in the pool of Siloam**).
 - b. **So he went and washed, and came back seeing:** This was a completely unique miracle in the Scriptures. From Genesis to John, no prophet, priest, or apostle ever gave sight to blind eyes but Jesus did this type of healing more than any other miracle. Psalm 146:8, Isaiah 35:5
 - c. **Made clay with the saliva:** Why did Jesus use clay and spit? Discuss the different theories.
 - d. Not many people would appreciate having mud made with spit rubbed in their eyes. Some would look at how Jesus did this miracle and object, saying that it was offensive, inadequate, or even harmful to rub mud made with spit in a man's eyes.

B. THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE HEALING.

1. (John 9:8-12) **THE NEIGHBORS REACT TO THE HEALED MAN.**
 - a. **Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he":** It seems too amazing to believe, but the man convinced them that he was in fact healed from congenital blindness. It would also seem that his physical appearance had also been changed by this miracle.
 - b. **A man called Jesus:** At this point, the man knew very little about Jesus. He didn't know anything more about Jesus than His name, and that He healed him.

2. (John 9:13-16) THE HEALED MAN IS BROUGHT TO THE PHARISEES.

a. **Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes:** Jesus took the initiative in this miracle, and could have done it on any day He chose. Then why did Jesus do this miracle on the Sabbath? Jesus did this to challenge the petty traditions of the religious leader, traditions that they elevated to the place of binding laws.

The Jerusalem Talmud contained 64 pages, and the Babylonian Talmud 156 double pages, with specific rules on observing the Sabbath.”

The Pharisees succeeded in turning the Sabbath rest into a burden, rather than a blessing. E.g Invasion of the Antioch army in 167BC.

b. **Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath":** To the Pharisees, Jesus could not be from God because He did not line up with their traditions and prejudices.

3. (John 9:17-23) THE PHARISEES QUESTION THE MAN'S PARENTS.

a. **He is a prophet:** In John 9:11, all the man knew about Jesus was His name. Here, the healed man now proclaims that Jesus **is a prophet**. He grows in his understanding and proclamation about Jesus.

b. **By what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know:** The Pharisees couldn't even bring themselves to believe that the man who said he was born blind was actually born blind. Therefore, they questioned the man's parents and asked them if he was born blind and how he was healed. In their reply, the parents carefully avoid controversy, because of the threat of excommunication.

4. (John 9:24-34) THE HEALED MAN HOLDS HIS OWN WHEN INTERROGATED BY THE PHARISEES, RESULTING IN HIS EXCOMMUNICATION.

a. **Give God the glory:** This command to the healed man may be an admonition to tell the truth (as in Joshua 7:19), or a command to deny any credit to Jesus in the healing.

b. **One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see:** The man born blind doesn't know everything about Jesus, but he does know how Jesus has touched his life. This is an irrefutable argument. How can they argue against what Jesus did in this man's life?

c. **Do you also want to become His disciples?** The healed man both mocks their prejudiced rejection of Jesus, and proclaims himself to be a disciple of Jesus (**do you also**).

d. **We know that God does not hear sinners:** Isaiah 1:15 and Psalm 66:18 indicate that God does not hear the sinner. Therefore, the claim that **"we know this man is a sinner"** is false

according to the Scriptures. The blind man is no theologian, but he offers a well-reasoned argument according to the Scriptures, but it falls on deaf ears.

f. **And they cast him out:** The excommunication of the blind man turned out to be a good thing, because it prevented him from trying to live in two worlds. Being "put out" of our old group/ world is undeniably painful, but it is usually spiritually helpful.

5. (John 9:35-38) **THE HEALED MAN BELIEVES ON JESUS.**

a. **When He had found him:** The man whom Jesus healed was rejected by the religious community, but now Jesus made it a point to meet him and receive him. It hurts to be rejected by others, **but it should be enough to be accepted by Jesus.**

i. Jesus dealt with this man differently than most. He met his physical need first, then allowed him to endure persecution, then called him to a specific belief. Are we willing to allow Jesus to deal with people differently today?

6. (John 9:39-41) **JESUS DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN THE BLIND AND THE SEEING.**

a. **That those who do not see may see:** Those who admit their spiritual blindness can find sight in Jesus. But **those who see may be made blind** - that is, those who falsely claim to have spiritual sight will be **made blind**.

b. **Are we blind also?**

c. **If you were blind, you would have no sin:** If the Pharisees would admit to their spiritual blindness, they could be forgiven and set free - but because they say "**we see**," their sin remains.

CONCLUSION

John 9 paints a picture of how Jesus heals blind souls.

- We are all spiritually blind from birth
- Jesus takes the initiative in healing us from blindness
- Jesus does a work of *creation* in us, not reformation
- In this work, Jesus calls us to be obedient to what He commands
- Jesus commands us to be washed in the water of baptism
- We become a mystery to our former associates, not even seeming to be the same person
- We display loyalty to Jesus when we are persecuted, boldly and plainly testifying of His work in our lives and confounding others
- We pass from little knowledge to greater knowledge, and this brings us to greater worship and adoration