

I Once Was Blind but Now I See

John 9:8-34 (Page 80 in the BPB)

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Setting

Jesus healed a man who had been blind from birth. (9:1-7)

Question: Who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind? (v. 2)

Answer: Neither this man sinned nor his parents; but so that the works of God might be displayed in him. (v. 3)

Themes we have seen before in John's Gospel:

The works of God (5:17)

Day/night, light/darkness (1:4-5; 3:19-21; 8:12)

Jesus healed the man by making clay and applying it to the man's eyes and telling him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The man obeyed and **came back seeing**.

Interrogation of the man by his neighbors (9:8-12)

8Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?"

9Others were saying, "This is he,"
others were saying, "No, but he is like him."
He kept saying, "I am the one."

10So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?"

11He answered, **[1]** "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and **I received sight**."

12They said to him, "Where is He?"
He said, "I do not know."

Interrogation of the man by the Pharisees (9:13-17)

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind.

¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and **opened his eyes**.

(Sabbath - Jn. 5:2-9, 16; 7:19-24; see also Lk. 13:10-17)

¹⁵Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight.

And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and **I see**."

¹⁶Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"

(Signs - 2:11, 23; 3:2; 4:54; 6:14; 7:31)

And there was a division among them.

¹⁷So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?"

And he said, **[2]** "He is a prophet."

Interrogation of the man's parents by the Pharisees (9:18-23)

¹⁸The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, ¹⁹and questioned them, saying,

[i] "Is this your son, who you say was born blind?"

[ii] "Then how does he now see?"

²⁰His parents answered them and said,

[i] "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

[ii] ²¹but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know.

Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself."

²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; (see 7:13)

for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ/Messiah, he was to be put out of the synagogue.

²³For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

Interrogation of the man by the Pharisees (9:24-34)

²⁴So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him,

“Give glory to God; (They place him under oath) (see vv. 3)

We know that this man is a sinner.”

²⁵He then answered,

“Whether He is a sinner, **I do not know**;

one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

²⁶So they said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?”

²⁷He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen;

Why do you want to hear it again?

You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?”

²⁸They reviled him and said,

“You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

²⁹**We know** that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we **do not know** where He is from.”

Moses – John 5:45-47

³⁰The man answered and said to them,

“Well, here is an amazing thing, that **you do not know** where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes.

³¹**We know** that God does not hear sinners;
but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.

Ps. 66:18; Pr. 15:29; Is. 1:15; 59:2; (1Pet. 3:12; 1 Jn. 5:14-15)

³²“Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

[3] ³³**“If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”**

³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out.

Conclusion (9:35-41)

[4] **“Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him.** (v. 38)

Application

The Man – Testifies of God’s Grace – I once was blind but now I see.

1Peter 2:9-10

The Parents – Fear of Men

Hebrews 13:6; (Ps. 118:6-9)

The Pharisees – Willful Unbelief & Hardness of Heart

Isaiah 6:8-11; (Matt. 13:10-17)