

John 9:1-41

Verses 1-2

- Jesus and His disciples pass by a man that is blind from birth and the disciples ask Jesus (who was their Rabbi which means teacher) whether it was this man or his parents who had sinned to bring this affliction upon Him.
- The common belief at this time among the Jews was every affliction was God's punishment for sin. We see an example of this in the reason Job's friends thought his affliction had come (sin).
- In a broad sense, sin forth death, pain, and affliction. Prior to sin, Adam and Eve lived in paradise and we when the presence of sin is removed completely in our eternal home there will be no affliction, pain, tears, etc (Rev 21:4).
- However, in a specific sense one cannot attribute sin as the cause of every affliction.
- Sometimes people have affliction/discipline from the Lord as a result of sin.
- Examples of sin producing affliction:
 - Miriam given leprosy (Numbers 12)
 - David and Bathsheba's child dies because of their sin (2 Sam 12:13-23)
 - Nebuchadnezzar becomes as a wild beast (Daniel 4:28-37)
- We also know that affliction and trials are given to the elect to put them through the crucible to refine their faith being more precious than gold. We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- The disciples want to know why this man is born blind.

Verse 3

- Jesus is not denying original sin in this man or that his parents had sinned but is stating that neither is the cause of his blindness.
- Jesus tells them that it was not his parents or his sins that is the cause of his blindness, but rather is a result of the sovereign will and desire of God to have Him be born blind to accomplish God's desire and will.
- This man was blind so that God's power and the works of God could be displayed in him. (Example: Pharaoh)
 - Exodus 9:15-16 For if by now I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth. 16 But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to [a]remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.
- This man dealt with struggles, hardships, and affliction of not being able to see all for the glory of God and for God to display His power and glory through this man.
- All the years of blindness was worth it to have God's glory shown in Him.
 - Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches [□]both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? ³⁵Or who has first given to Him [□]that it might be paid back to him again? ³⁶For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory [□]forever. Amen.
- The affliction placed upon Jesus by the Father displayed the glory of God to the highest level!

Verses 4-5

What Jesus has in view is that He is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and He has been sent to do the works of the Father (John 5:36, John 17:4). He must do the works of the Father while it is still day (He is alive) because night (death) is coming when the works on earth are completed, and He ascends to the Father. The same is the case with us as we are to do the work we have been appointed to on earth as our works will cease when we die. This speaks to urgency in our actions.

Verses 6-8

- Jesus spits on the ground to make clay that He would then apply to the man's eyes.
- There are times where Jesus uses means (spit, touch, etc) to heal whereas sometimes He simply speaks to bring about healing (John 5- the lame man at the pool of Bethesda).
- God doesn't have to use means to heal, but chooses to do so at times.
- Jesus uses the spit as means to heal this man. The spit/clay did not hold any power of itself, but had its power in God and was used as a means to an end.
- The same is the case with God using us as instruments/means to accomplish His ends. He doesn't need us and there is no power in us, but God uses us as weak vessels as a part of His sovereign plan. A significant example of this is in evangelism/salvation.
- The man has never seen anything including Jesus but obeys Him and by faith He goes to the pool of Siloam (meaning sent) to wash.
- After doing what Jesus commanded, he was able to see for the first time in his life.

Verses 9-12

The neighbors seeing what has happened to this man begin to question if this is the same man that used to sit and beg who was blind. Some believed it was the blind man while others believed it be someone who looked like him. The man kept telling them that he is the one who used to be blind, but now can see. They asked the one question that was burning in all their hearts and minds: "How did this happen, how are your eyes opened now?" This man tells them a man (speaking of the dual natures of Christ in the hypostatic union-truly God, truly man) named Jesus who brought about this healing. They want to know where this man named Jesus was at and wanted this man to point Him out. However, the man had never seen Jesus and did not know what He looked like up to this point. He did not know what Jesus looked like and did not know where He was.

Verses 13-17

- This miracle of healing the blind man occurs on the Sabbath. The fact that Jesus performs many miracles on the Sabbath (such as healing the man in John 5) is not accidental or coincidental, but rather is purposefully to test, educate, and expose the Pharisees and scribes.
- The Pharisees inquire how he had received his sight and this man tells them exactly what happened with his interaction with Jesus.
- The hatred and jealousy of the Pharisees is shown as they accuse Jesus of not being from God because He is not keeping the Sabbath by what He has done. He has already exposed them to their hypocrisy regarding the Sabbath as they would circumcise on the Sabbath if it fell on the 8th day but was angry at Jesus because He made an entire man well on the Sabbath (John 7:21-24). He also claimed His deity regarding Him working on the Sabbath in John 5:16-18 which resulted in them seeking to kill Him not only because they thought He was breaking the Sabbath, but also that He was calling God His own Father, making Him equal with God.
- Some did not dismiss the claims of Jesus being from God as they reasoned that a sinner could not perform the miracle that Jesus had just performed.
- There arose a division among the people regarding Jesus.
- The Pharisees then asked the man who was healed and his sight restored what he thought about Jesus. He said that he thought Jesus was a prophet. Indeed, Jesus was a prophet. In fact, He was the prophet that Moses spoke about in Deuteronomy 18:15. However, He is so much more than just a prophet.

Verses 18-23

- The Pharisees do not believe the thoughts of the man that was healed concerning Jesus or that he was truly blind and then healed so they call his parents to verify his account of being born blind.
- The parents are called in and give verification that this man was indeed their son and that he was born blind.
- The parents do not know how he can see now or who opened his eyes.
- His parents are afraid of the Pharisees and tell them to ask their son these questions since he is of age to answer for himself. They are afraid of the Pharisees because they have stated that anyone that confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. The Pharisees along with every human being will one day bow and confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil 2:10-11).

Verses 24-29

- The man that was healed was brought before the Pharisees again for the second time for more interrogation.
- The Pharisees want this man to “give glory to God” by saying that Jesus is a sinner. The Pharisees don’t believe the claims of Jesus as He has already told them that He is the Ego Eimi. By acknowledging the Son, they would be giving glory to the God.
- The man tells them that he doesn’t know if Jesus is a sinner or not, but the one thing he does know is that he had been blind all his life and now he can see.
- They again question the man on how this miracle happened. His response doesn’t sit well with them as he states that he has answered them already and they refuse to listen to the truth. He then asks them if they want to hear the story again because they want to be His disciples too.
- This answer from the man was met with reviling from the Pharisees. They accuse the man of being a disciple of Jesus, but they claim they are disciples of Moses (which they are not).

Verses 30-34

- The man continues to anger the Pharisees with his words.
- He tells them he finds it amazing that they don’t know anything about Jesus, yet He restored his sight.
- God does not hear the prayer of sinners, but the prayers of those who do His will.
 - 1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
 - Proverbs 28:9 He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.
 - Proverbs 15:29 The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.
 - Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous And His ears are *open* to their cry.
- The fact that Jesus healed this man who was blind from birth demonstrated power that could only come from God since no one had ever heard this being done.
- If Jesus was not from God, He could do nothing let alone healing this man’s sight. Jesus works were a witness that He was from the Father (John 5:36).
- They accuse this man of being blind as a result of his sins and cast him out. This means they excommunicate him from them and the synagogue for his stand for the truth.
- The same day this man was physically healed and his sight restored was the same day he was cast out due to him not wavering his story and the Pharisees hatred for the truth and Jesus.

Verses 35-37

- After this man was cast out, Jesus comes to him. This man doesn't know who Jesus is or anything about Him.
- Jesus asks him if he believes in the Son of Man (**Daniel 7:13-14, John 3:13**).
- This man asks who the Son of Man is so that he could believe. Jesus tells him that the Son of Man is the one who He is now looking at talking to.
- This man who had never seen anything until this day is now face to face looking upon the eternal God, the creator of the world, I AM, the Son on Man.
- As a result of hearing this, the man believes and worshipped Jesus.

Verses 38-41

- The point of what Jesus is saying is that those who realize they are spiritually blind will understand they need someone to heal them spiritually. As a result, God will open their eyes, they will believe in God, and their sins will be erased. However, those who don't believe they are spiritually blind or need to be healed (the Pharisees) will never seek a cure for their disease. They will not call upon God that their blindness be cured, and their sins would be gone because they don't think they are blind or sick. As a result, their sins remain as they remain spiritually blind, but don't realize or think they are blind.
 - **Luke 5:27-32** After that He went out and noticed a tax collector named ^[a]Levi sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me." ²⁸ And he left everything behind, and got up and *began* to follow Him.²⁹ And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other *people* who were reclining *at the table* with them. ³⁰ The Pharisees and their scribes *began* grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and ^[b]sinners?" ³¹ And Jesus answered and said to them, "*It is* not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

This man was born blind and there was nothing he himself or anyone else could do to give him sight and heal his blindness until Jesus came to find him. Jesus touched him and mercifully gave him his sight. After Jesus has healed his eyes, the man then believed that Jesus was the Son of Man and worshipped Him. This man had never seen any light until this day and now was standing eye to eye with the eternal God, the Light of World. We can see the story of salvation unfold in this event. We too are born spiritually blind, and we are unable to see the truth of God or the things of God. We can't give ourselves sight and neither can anyone else. We are completely hopeless to ever see the truth of God unless God the Holy Spirit comes to us and by His power through regeneration opens our eyes to the truths of God. He removes the scales from our eyes, and we now see the beauty of the gospel and of God. Jesus answered Nicodemus and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." We can only see the things of the kingdom of God after we are born again which is from God and God alone. We too like this man, after our eyes have been opened, then we believe in Christ. It is this belief that brings about our justification. This believe does not and can not occur before our eyes are open when we are born again as regeneration proceeds faith. One day those who He has healed their spiritual blindness will enter the kingdom of God and we will have the highest blessing any creature can have: We will see Him as He is!

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.