



Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

John 9



Jesus performed another miracle when He restored the sight of a man who had been blind his entire life. This miracle is a picture of how Jesus brings light to everyone in spiritual darkness.

Day #1: Blind Beggar

One day Jesus and His disciples came across a man who was blind. This man had been blind since he was born. Back in Jesus' day, there was really no way for a blind person to earn money. Most blind people had to beg for money just to have food to eat. This was seen as a shameful life. No one thought very highly of beggars.

Just imagine the man, sitting in a public place begging for money. He could not see who was walking past him. He would start to beg whenever he heard footsteps coming near.

When the disciples saw the man, they asked Jesus about him.

† Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned? Was this man born blind because he sinned? Or did his parents sin?" - John 9:2

Very often sin does lead to pain and suffering (Exodus 12:29-30). But not all pain and suffering is caused by sin. Listen to Jesus' answer:

"It isn't because this man sinned," said Jesus. "It isn't because his parents sinned. This happened so that God's work could be shown in his life." - John 9:3

As always, Jesus taught things that no one had ever heard before. Jesus taught them that sometimes God allows something that seems bad, because He has a much greater plan (Genesis 50:20).

* Remember that just because someone has a problem does not mean they have done something wrong. And, if you are suffering in some way, pray that God will do a great work in your life and that He will receive all the glory.

Day #2: Touched by Jesus

What are your favorite things to look at? Maybe it is a sunrise over the ocean, or a star-filled night sky. The

Day #2 continued:

man in our story had never seen any of these things: no color, no light. It was from no fault of his own. God allowed this, so He could do a miracle, and make Himself known.

Jesus went to the man, and spit on the ground. Then He stooped down to touch the dirt. (This is a picture of how Jesus reaches down to the lowest level to bring help and healing to people.)

† He made some mud with the spit. Then He put the mud on the man's eyes.

"Go," He told him. "Wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam means Sent.

So the man went and washed. And he came home able to see. - John 9:6b-7

Sometimes God works in ways we do not expect. Certainly this poor, blind beggar did not expect a stranger to walk up and put mud on his eyes that day!

But when Jesus told him to go to the nearby pool and wash his eyes, he left Jesus and obeyed. As soon as the water rinsed the dirt off of the man's face, he was able to see. For the first time, he was able to see the vastness of the sky and the beauty of a flower. It must have been almost too much to take in at one time.

He undoubtedly ran home to tell his parents this incredible news. For the first time ever, he saw the smile on his father's face, and the color of his mother's eyes.

* Ask your parents to tell you about a time when God did something unexpected - and wonderful - in their lives.

Day #3: On the Sabbath

Jesus healed the blind man on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a special day each week that was set aside to rest and to remember the Lord (Exodus 31:13). Keeping the Sabbath was part of the Law that God had given to Moses (Exodus 20:8-11). God's Law said not to do any work on the Sabbath.

The Pharisees were very strict about keeping the Sabbath. Of course, it was right to rest and remember God. But the Pharisees added MANY of their own rules on top of God's rules. They added so many rules that it was almost impossible to know them all. The Pharisees' rules even turned resting into work! God says this is wrong (Isaiah 29:13).

If people didn't follow all of the Pharisees' man-made rules about the Sabbath, they could be thrown out of the synagogue, which was the Jewish house of worship. Sometimes the Pharisees even stoned people to death

Day #3 continued:

for breaking the Sabbath rules.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, some of them were very angry. They were more concerned about what day it was than the fact that Jesus healed a man who was blind from birth!



Some of the Pharisees said, "Jesus has not come from God. He does not keep the Sabbath day." - John 9:16a

These Pharisees had it all wrong. The Bible says that the Sabbath is for our good (Mark 2:27). It is good for us to rest and it is even better for us to remember God. It is not wrong for us to help others and glorify God on the Sabbath. Many times as Jesus walked the earth, He did good things on the Sabbath. Jesus said it is right to do good on the Sabbath (Luke 6:9, John 7:23).



Discuss what Jesus meant when He said about the Pharisees, "They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders" (Matthew 23:4). (They added rules that were not necessary, rules that were too much for anyone to obey.)

We must never add anything to God's word.

Day #4: On Trial

The Pharisees wanted to know more about the man who claimed he was healed by Jesus. They called the man in and asked him questions. He explained everything that had happened.

Some of the Pharisees were angry with Jesus, but some thought He must be from God because He could do miracles (John 9:16).



Finally they turned again to the blind man. "What do you have to say about Him?" they asked. "It was your eyes He opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet." - John 9:17

The Pharisees wanted more answers. They called for his parents, and asked them how the man regained his sight.

"We know he is our son," the parents answered. "And we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he can now see. And we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is an adult. He can speak for himself." - John 9:20

His parents were too afraid of being kicked out of the synagogue to admit that Jesus had healed their son. Again, the Pharisees questioned the man. They tried to get him to say that Jesus was a sinner.

He replied, "I don't know if He is a sinner or not. I do know one thing. I was blind, but now I can see!" - John 9:25

Day #4 continued:

This man had never even seen Jesus. He did not yet know who Jesus was, but what he did know, he proclaimed boldly. Even when facing the most important religious leaders in Israel, this poor uneducated beggar told what he little knew about Jesus.



This is a great lesson for us! **You don't have to have all the answers in order to tell others about Jesus.**

If He answers your prayers, if He gives you peace, if He has changed your life, tell others! No matter who you are talking to, the truth about Jesus is powerful. What is one thing you can tell someone about Jesus?

Day #5: The Light

The Pharisees did not like what the once-blind man had to say. They were so mad that they kicked him out of the synagogue.



Jesus heard that the Pharisees had thrown the man out. When He found him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

(The Son of Man is an Old Testament name for the Messiah. Daniel 7:13-14)

"Who is He, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me, so I can believe in Him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen Him. In fact, He is the One speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him. - John 9:35-58

Knowing the man was kicked out of the presence of the religious leaders, **Jesus came to him**. Because Jesus had healed him, the man knew Jesus was *from* God, but he did not yet know that Jesus **WAS** God. When Jesus told him who He was, the man believed. Right away, he worshipped Jesus. He chose to leave his spiritual darkness and place his faith in Jesus.

Much more important than the man's physical eyesight was his spiritual eyesight. Seeing with his eyes was a symbol for seeing with his heart. At this moment he could "see" more than the most educated Jewish teachers and Pharisees. Now he knew the truth about Jesus, the Light of the world.



Close your eyes. Without opening them, **slowly** try to walk across the room. This is how people who don't believe in Jesus are. Their life is like a room full of clutter, and they are trying to make their way through it on their own. They will fall, get lost, and get hurt because they don't know the best way to live.

Now open your eyes, and try to walk across the room. This is how life is for those who do believe in Jesus. Jesus is the Truth, the Life, and the Way (John 14:6). When we put our trust in Him, He is always with us, to lead us and guide us in the way that is best for us.