

THEME 1: What do we “see”?

Scripture

John 9:1-41 (full version)

The man born blind

Narrator A reading from holy Gospel according to Saint John.

As [Jesus] passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
His disciples asked him,

Disciples “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,
that he was born blind?”

Narrator Jesus answered,

Jesus “Neither he nor his parents sinned;
it is so that the works of God might be made visible
through him.
We have to do the works of the one who sent me
while it is day.
Night is coming when no one can work.
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Narrator When he had said this,
he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes,
and said to him,

Jesus “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam”

Narrator (which means Sent).
So he went and washed, and came back able to see.
His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier
as a beggar said,

People “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”

Narrator Some said,

People “It is,”

Narrator but others said,

People “No, he just looks like him.”

Narrator He said,

Blind man “I am.”

Narrator So they said to him,

People “[So] how were your eyes opened?”

Narrator He replied,

Blind man “The man called Jesus made clay
and anointed my eyes and told me,
‘Go to Siloam and wash.’
So I went there and washed and was able to see.”

Narrator And they said to him,

People “Where is he?”

Narrator He said,

Blind man “I don’t know.”

Narrator They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes
on a sabbath.
So then the Pharisees also asked him
how he was able to see.
He said to them,

Blind man “He put clay on my eyes,
and I washed,
and now I can see.”

Narrator So some of the Pharisees said,

Pharisees “This man is not from God,
because he does not keep the sabbath.”

Narrator [But] others said,

Pharisees “How can a sinful man do such signs?”

Narrator And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,

Pharisees “What do you have to say about him,
since he opened your eyes?”

Narrator He said,

Blind man “He is a prophet.”

Narrator Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind
and gained his sight
until they summoned the parents of the one
who had gained his sight.
They asked them,

Pharisees “Is this your son, who you say was born blind?
How does he now see?”

Narrator His parents answered and said,

Parents “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.
We do not know how he sees now,
nor do we know who opened his eyes.
Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.”

Narrator His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews,
for the Jews had already agreed
that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah,
he would be expelled from the synagogue.
For this reason his parents said,
“He is of age; question him.”

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

Pharisees “Give God the praise!
We know that this man is a sinner.”

Narrator He replied,

Blind man “If he is a sinner, I do not know.
One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.”

Narrator So they said to him,

Pharisees “What did he do to you?
How did he open your eyes?”

Narrator He answered them,

Blind man “I told you already and you did not listen.
Why do you want to hear it again?
Do you want to become his disciples, too?”

Narrator They ridiculed him and said,

Pharisees “You are that man’s disciple; we are disciples of Moses!
We know that God spoke to Moses,
but we do not know where this one is from.”

Narrator The man answered and said to them,

Blind man “This is what is so amazing,
that you do not know where he is from,
yet he opened my eyes.
We know that God does not listen to sinners,
but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him.
It is unheard of
that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind.
If this man were not from God,
he would not be able to do anything.”

Narrator They answered and said to him,

Pharisees “You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?”

Narrator Then they threw him out.
When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said,

Jesus “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

Narrator He answered and said,

Blind man “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”

Narrator Jesus said to him,

Jesus “You have seen him
and the one speaking with you is he.”

Narrator He said,

Blind man “I do believe, Lord,”

Narrator and he worshiped him.

Then Jesus said,

Jesus “I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see might see,
and those who do see might become blind.”

Narrator Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this
and said to him,

Pharisees “Surely we are not also blind, are we?”

Narrator Jesus said to them,

Jesus “If you were blind, you would have no sin;
but now you are saying, ‘We see,’
so your sin remains.”

Narrator The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**