



Sunday, May 24, 2026

John 9

John 9:1-41

‘As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” Jesus answered. “This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him. 4 We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

6 After he said these things he spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. 7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he left, washed, and came back seeing.

8 His neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit begging?” 9 Some said, “He’s the one.” Others were saying, “No, but he looks like him.”

He kept saying, “I’m the one.”

10 So they asked him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”

11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So when I went and washed I received my sight.”

12 “Where is he?” they asked. “I don’t know,” he said.

13 They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees. 14 The day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Then the Pharisees asked him again how he received his sight.

“He put mud on my eyes,” he told them. “I washed and I can see.”

16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he doesn’t keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a sinful man perform such signs?” And there was a division among them.

17 Again they asked the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

“He’s a prophet,” he said.

18 The Jews did not believe this about him—that he was blind and received sight—until they summoned the parents of the one who had received his sight.

19 They asked them, “Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

20 “We know this is our son and that he was born blind,” his parents answered. 21 “But we don’t know how he now sees, and we don’t know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he’s of age. He will speak for himself.” 22 His parents said these things because they were afraid of the Jews, since the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed him as the Messiah, he would be banned from the synagogue. 23 This is why his parents said, “He’s of age; ask him.”

24 So a second time they summoned the man who had been blind and told him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.”

25 He answered, “Whether or not he’s a sinner, I don’t know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!”

26 Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

27 “I already told you,” he said, “and you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don’t want to become his disciples too, do you?”

28 They ridiculed him: “You’re that man’s disciple, but we’re Moses’s disciples. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses. But this man—we don’t know where he’s from.”

30 “This is an amazing thing!” the man told them. “You don’t know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him. 32 Throughout history[c] no one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he wouldn’t be able to do anything.”

34 “You were born entirely in sin,” they replied, “and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and when he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”[d]

36 “Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?” he asked.

37 Jesus answered, “You have seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

38 “I believe, Lord!” he said, and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.”

40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things and asked him, “We aren’t blind too, are we?”

41 “If you were blind,” Jesus told them, “you wouldn’t have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

This chapter can be broken up into three main parts:

1-5 / 6-38 / 39-41

Verses one to five talk about the reason behind the man being born blind and raises questions about sickness, healing, suffering and God’s will.

The last section has everything to do with spiritual blindness - which is really the whole point of the healing in the first place.

But obviously, the bulk of the story is centred around the healing of the blind man, the process that Jesus takes him through and then his interaction with the Pharisees afterwards.

And what I'd like to be able to do today is to take a bit of an unconventional approach to this chapter where we will be looking at the middle section first and then next week we will look at the beginning and ending. My hope is that once we understand, the actual miracle itself, then that will give us greater clarity and understanding for the beginning portion and the closing portion.

Notice the disciples asking why the man was blind? How and why did he become like this? But notice that's not the same question that Jesus is asking. They were looking to attribute a reason to why he was the way he was... something that would legitimize his condition and give acceptance and permission for him to be this way. But Jesus' wasn't interested in that. Foundational to the gospel is that Jesus finds us as we are but loves us far too much to leave us as we are. So for Jesus, He looked at this simply as an opportunity.

An opportunity to heal his eyes, right?

Well.....kinda.

Healing was involved no doubt, and as great as this miracle was, this man's healing isn't actually the point of the story.

I would even go as far as to make the blanket statement that whenever Jesus healed someone in the Bible or performed a miracle or supernatural wonder, it was never just about that singular act of power. In every single case, Jesus' actions always pointed to something greater.

This is why in the Book of John, John doesn't really use the terms miracles or healings as much as uses the term, 'signs.' In fact, if you have your Bible with you this morning, if you flip through the pages of the first 9 chapters of John, you will likely come across headings that say something like, the second sign or the fourth sign or as in our chapter today, the heading reads: the sixth sign. Because, for Jesus, the miracle is intentional and ALWAYS points to something beyond itself.

Take the miracle of healing for example. It's an incredibly supernatural act, which we see time after time in the Bible. Jesus heals the leper, the deaf, the dead, the blind and so on... But when you really think about it, these healings are only temporary because physical death would eventually come for every single person that was miraculously healed.

Which means that every single blind eye that was healed eventually stopped working again. Every disease that was removed did not ultimately stop the body from dying. Every single heart that was allowed to beat again, ultimately stopped. Lungs that were cleared miraculously, eventually took their final breath.

So you see then, physical healing could never actually be the point because it is only a temporary fix to an eternal problem.

So naturally then, we can see a few options unfold. One would be that Jesus performed miracles to prove the truth of the Gospel message. The idea being that if He could heal the sick, then surely that proved He had the power to save souls. And there is truth to that. The miracles did reveal His power and authority. But time after time we see that after witnessing the power of God, there were still people that turned away and chose not to believe. So, miraculous power alone was never the ultimate proof of His identity.

Now, if you've been paying attention throughout the book of John, we have seen a consistent theme developing. What we've learned is that the miracles alone were never enough to produce saving faith. The signs revealed His power and authority, but it ultimately it was His Word that revealed the meaning behind the sign.

His Word is enough because He is the Word. And when His Word is spoken, life is created, just as we see in the beginning of Genesis and are reminded of again in the opening verses of John:

John 1:1

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'

Remember earlier when we saw the miraculous feeding of the five thousand? The miracle amazed the crowd, but it wasn't until Jesus began to speak afterward that people were forced to decide whether they truly believed or not. It was His words that exposed their hearts. It was His words that separated their shallow fascination from genuine faith.

It's the same thing with the woman caught in adultery. It was the words of Jesus that exposed the hearts of her accusers and caused them to walk away.

What Jesus has been teaching all along is that His greatest authority is revealed through His Word.

Scripture continues to remind us that His Word is sharper than a double-edged sword and later on, the Book of Revelation even pictures the Word of Christ like a sword proceeding from His mouth. Why? Because His true authority has never merely been in displays of power, but in the power of His Word. So these signs then are great tools to showcase His power and authority, but we can clearly see that their true power and authority comes through His subsequent Words.

So if the point isn't necessarily the healing itself, and if the miracles were never meant to stand alone apart from the words of Jesus, then what was the point?

They were glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Every miracle Jesus performed gave people a glimpse of what the Kingdom of Heaven looks like as it breaks into a broken world.

In those moments, people witnessed flashes of a world untouched by the curse of sin and death. A kingdom without blindness, sickness, sorrow, suffering, or death.

That's why the signs mattered so deeply. Jesus was not merely fixing earthly bodies. He was revealing the Kingdom of Heaven to them and the authority of the King of that Kingdom who was standing before them - inviting them in.

Every healed eye, every restored body part, every miracle was ultimately pointing beyond this world and to the next - to the way that things would one day be for all eternity.

And this is exactly why Jesus instructed us to pray:

'Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.'

You see, the Kingdom of Heaven is not simply something we experience after death. Jesus makes it clear that it is something breaking into the present even now.

So this miracle is not merely about one blind man receiving physical sight. It is Jesus' way of showing the entire community that they are spiritually blind, and that He has come as the Light of the World to restore their sight, restore clarity, and ultimately restore life - and life more abundantly.

And yes, Jesus could have waived His hand, or simply spoken a word, and this man would have been made whole, however, notice that Jesus first spits in the dirt, makes a muddy paste, smears it on the

guy's face, and then He tells him to go wash in the pool of Siloam.

Each one of these three elements - the spit, the dirt, and the Pool of Siloam - is deeply intentional. And as we're about to see, each one supports this greater theme of Heaven breaking into Earth.

Spit:

Now this may sound strange to us, but in the ancient world, saliva was sometimes associated with healing and authority. There were even Jewish traditions that connected the firstborn son to the idea that the saliva of a legitimate first-born son carried these unique capabilities.

So when Jesus chooses to heal the blind man using His own saliva, this is not random. In a deeply symbolic way, Jesus is once again revealing something about His identity and authority.

The miracle is not merely pointing to healing power. It is pointing to the Son.

For the past eight chapters, Jesus has been declaring that He has come into the world to do His father's will. That He only does what He sees His father doing. To claim Sonship with God the Father was considered blasphemy by the religious leaders of the day. So by choosing to heal this man in such an intentional and symbolic way, Jesus is now making a declaration about His identity. He is revealing through their own traditions and customs that He is the true Son sent from the Father.

And this is why the miracle creates such controversy afterward. Because the issue was never simply whether a blind man could now see. The real issue was what the miracle revealed about the One who healed him.

The next thing we see is that Jesus bends down and begins to mix his spit with the dirt of the ground, creating a muddy/clay like substance. And immediately, John's readers would be drawn back to Genesis, where God formed Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him. In the same way, Jesus is once again taking the dust of the earth and bringing restoration and life through it. The same God who created life in Genesis, is now restoring it in John.

But there is another layer happening here as well. Jesus performs this miracle on the Sabbath. And according to the religious traditions of the day, kneading or making clay was considered work forbidden on the Sabbath.

So think about what Jesus is doing. He intentionally makes clay on the Sabbath and then uses it to

restore life and sight. Why? Because Jesus is confronting their skewed understanding of the Sabbath itself. They had turned the Sabbath into a burden, when all along it was meant to be a gift that pointed people toward restoration, wholeness, and life in God.

Which brings us to the last element, the pool of Siloam. Which we are told specifically means, 'sent.'

Notice that John doesn't make us dig into the concordance to figure out what that word means. He's very intentional about including that detail because the element of being 'sent' is central to the whole miracle.

Remember, all of this is happening in the context of the Feast of Tabernacles, where water played a central role. Each morning, the priest would draw water from the Pool of Siloam and pour it out at the altar as the people cried out for God to send the Messiah.

The spit, and the dirt already point to Jesus as the Messiah. But the Pool of Siloam becomes the exclamation point on the entire miracle as Jesus - the Messiah, SENT by God - now sends the blind man to the pool called Sent to receive his sight.

The symbolism could not be clearer. Jesus is revealing that true sight, true clarity, true restoration, and true life are found only through the One sent by God.

Now watch this. The concept of sending doesn't stop here. Later on in the book of John we will see Jesus say, just:

John 20:21b

'As the Father has sent me, I also send you.'

In other words, those who receive sight from the Sent One are themselves sent into the world to testify about Him.

And we see that progression immediately in the life of the blind man. The moment he receives his sight, he is questioned about who Jesus is. And as the story unfolds, his understanding of Jesus continues to grow.

First, he simply calls Him, 'the man called Jesus.'

Vs. 11

The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.

Then later, after being pressed and questioned more deeply, he calls Him a prophet.

Vs. 17b

"He's a prophet," he said.

And finally, at the end of the story, after encountering Jesus face-to-face, he declares:

Vs. 35b; 38

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"I believe, Lord!" he said, and he worshiped him.

And this is the point where the miracle is finally complete.

Not only can the man now see physically - but he can finally see spiritually.

And as I look at this story I think the strongest point for me is this progression. And this is what is so fascinating to me: the man had no real faith in Jesus at the beginning. He simply obeyed the instructions of someone he barely knew. And even after his physical infirmity was fixed, that ultimately wasn't what changed his view of Jesus. It wasn't until he was pressed by the Pharisees - tested by their questions - that he was forced to wrestle with who Jesus truly was. And when that opposition started to confront him, that's when his belief really started to shift! He moves from viewing Jesus as simply a man with a name to a prophet with a special ability from God and then finally to the Messiah - to which he responds with worship. The real transformation happened as he was questioned, challenged, and forced to wrestle with who Jesus truly was.

And honestly, I think many of us find ourselves somewhere along that same progression.

Some people still see Jesus as simply a man with a name. Others view Him as a good teacher or a prophet sent by God. But the real question this story forces us to wrestle with today is this:

Who do you truly believe Jesus is?

Because the miracle of John 9 was never ultimately about restoring physical sight. It was about revealing the identity of Jesus Christ as the Light of the World.

I think the reason this story resonates so deeply with us is because, in many ways, we are the blind man. Maybe not physically - but spiritually.

At one point, all of us were sitting in darkness, unable to truly see who Jesus was. And just like the blind man, many of us began our journey with only partial understanding. At first, Jesus may have simply been a name to us. Then maybe a good teacher. Maybe a prophet. Maybe someone sent by God.

But the more time we spend with Him, the longer we walk with Him, and especially the more we encounter people and situations that test our faith, the more that we are able to see Jesus for who He truly is - the King of all kings, Lord of all lords, the Saviour of humanity.

And to me, that's what's so fascinating about this story. It's that the blind man's understanding of Jesus becomes clearest in the middle of pressure, opposition, and testing.

And I think many of us can relate to that.

Some of our deepest growth happens when our faith is tested. When life presses us. When questions come. When opposition forces us to decide what we truly believe about Jesus.

And this pattern isn't unique to the blind man either. We see it all throughout Scripture. Every man or woman in Scripture who embraced the call of God eventually faced the pressure and opposition where their faith was tested. And what we learned through scripture is that only a faith that is tested is a faith that will grow.

Even in the book of Revelation, John describes the church in Smyrna facing intense opposition and suffering. Yet instead of destroying their faith, that pressure actually strengthened it and their endurance became a testimony to the world around them to remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

Example: wood glue on furniture joints without pressure and wood glue with pressure. Without pressure, the bond never fully forms. But under pressure, the joint becomes incredibly strong.

So lean in. Don't run from the pressure - allow the Holy Spirit of God to strengthen your faith through the pressure.

Because just as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus now sends us. And His call for us is to be His witnesses in the world. And the beautiful thing is that He doesn't send us blind. Through salvation - and now relationship with Him - He has given us the ability to see beyond this broken world to the hope that is ahead of us. The hope for eternity that is only found in Jesus Christ.

And that right there is the whole point of the story. Because the greatest miracle in John 9 was never simply restored eyesight - it was finally seeing Jesus for who He truly is. And once you and I truly see Jesus for everything that He is, everything changes.

Closing blessing:

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you
May He cause His face to Shine upon you
May He be gracious towards you
Lifting up His countenance before you
And may He give you peace
In Jesus name, Amen.

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