

## Minor Characters In Major Roles

### Lesson 4 – The Blind Man of John 9

*“And 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.”*

Rom 8:28

*“If God is for us, who is against us?”*

Rom 8:31b

- Visitors, prayer requests, prayer

**Q:** How do you react when someone suggests that God may have placed you in such-and-such a situation for a reason?

### Acts and Facts

- “After obeying Jesus, many said I looked different—and they were right!”
- “Part of Psalms 146 is about me!”
- “I told the authorities that Jesus was a prophet”
- “After hearing my story, the Jews still didn’t believe me, so they called my parents. But in the end they still threw me out”
- “When Jesus heard that I’d been thrown out, he came to me and comforted me with His words”

**Q:** Close your eyes. What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you feel? Think about what you would miss seeing the most if you were blind.

### The Miracle

1. <Read John 9:1-5>
2. The players
  - a. Jesus
  - b. His Disciples
  - c. The Blind Man
3. Jesus and disciples walking, see a man blind from birth (how did they know “**from birth?**”)
4. Disciples ask a **typically Jewish** question
  - a. *“Who sinned, the man or his parents?”*
  - b. In other words, **“who should get the blame here?”**
5. Jesus gives a **surprise answer!**
  - a. Neither, *“but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.”* (v.3)
  - b. Note that Jesus was **not bound by the framework of the question!**
  - c. So, there was a **third possibility**, a **Godly** reason for the situation. In other words, **“who should get the glory here?”**

**Q:** Jesus prefaces the miracle with some teaching in vs. 4-5. What does it mean?

**A:** Disciples focus: **“How did he get this way?”** (something no one would be expected to do anything about). Jesus’ focus: **“What can we do for him?”**

Here’s the point—Jesus had a **mission** and so do we (“**We ...**” in vs. 4)!

6. Jesus gets to work, restoring the man's sight
  - a. <Read John 9:6-7>

**Q:** Why does John tell us the **Siloam** means **sent**?

**A:** The pool is **a type of Christ**—go to that which was sent by God and be healed!

- b. Notice in verse 7, the man did **exactly what Jesus said**—no **rationalizing** or **quibbling**
  - c. For contrast <Read 2 Kings 5:9-14> (Naaman—Leper; Captain of King Aram's army)
  - d. Either the blind man was extremely **obedient**, or extremely **desperate**
7. <Read John 9:8-12>
    - a. Blind man returns, neighbors become **divided** over his "condition"
    - b. Some thought this man **wasn't the blind man at all**, others thought it was
    - c. He settles the argument by declaring "**I am the man!**"
    - d. They ask "*how were your eyes opened?*" and he tells the story

**Q: HOW** do you suppose the man appeared different? And **WHY** to some and not to others?

### The Investigation

1. <Read John 9:13-17>
  - a. The man is brought to the **Pharisees** (Why? By whom?)
  - b. They question him and he **explains a second time** how he was healed
  - c. They, too, became **divided**
    - i. Not surprising, given the divisive power of Jesus:

*"Do not think I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;"*

Matthew 10:34-35

- d. When asked about Jesus, the man says "**He is a Prophet.**" In other words, **from God**.
  - e. Quite a **brave** thing to say, given the **current situation** in Jerusalem.
2. <Read John 9:18-23>
    - a. The **parents** are summoned and **asked about his condition**:
      - i. "*Is this your son?*"
      - ii. "*Is he the one you say was born blind?*"
      - iii. "*How is it that now he can see?*"
    - b. (v. 20,21) Parents confirm all the **physical** evidence, but **none of the spiritual!** In fact, they put the **focus** back on the **healed man**!

**Q:** Comments on their fear of possible excommunication?

3. <Read John 9:24>
  - a. Again the man is called, and told to "**give glory to God**"
  - b. This was a way of saying "**Come on now, tell the truth!**" or "**Ok, come clean with us!**"
  - c. And look at their reason: "**WE know this man is a sinner**"
4. Now here comes the **most important statement** the blind man makes:
  - a. <Read John 9:25>
  - b. He simply told the **facts**—Jesus made him well!

- c. The blind man puts the **focus** back on **Jesus**, where it **belongs**!
  - d. Notice how the blind man is “seeing” many things this day!
    - i. The Pharisee’s **hypocrisy**, their **selfishness**, their **impotence**, their **hatred**
    - ii. Jesus’ **honesty**, His **selflessness**, His **power**, His **love**
5. <Read John 9:26-27>
- a. **Frustrated**, and not knowing what else to do, they **ask him again** “*How did He open your eyes?*”
  - b. Note their **urgent attention** on the **physical** event (now who’s blind!)
  - c. Look at the **bold response**. He actually **rebukes** the **Pharisees**!
6. <Read John 9:28-29>
- a. Now the Pharisees pull out the **old standby**—**Moses**.
  - b. They try to argue with **logic** from the **Law**
  - c. But look at the man’s **remarkable reply**!
  - d. <Read John 9:30-33>
  - e. He argues with **divine logic**! And this from a **common beggar**!
7. <Read John 9:34>
- a. In a final fit of **anger and rage**, they **condemn him** and **throw him out of the temple**!

**Q:** Contrast the changes in the healed man with the changes in the Pharisees.

- Healed man grew more **spiritual**; Pharisees grew more **physical**
- Healed man grew more **bold**; Pharisees grew more **brash**

- b. **Look again at 9:3-5**. That’s the **lesson** for us!

### The Meaning of the Incident

1. <Read John 9:35-41>
2. Note the progression of the man’s understanding of Jesus
  - a. “The **man** called Jesus...” (v.12)
  - b. “He is a **prophet**” (v.17)
  - c. “**Lord**” (vv.36, 38)
3. And all this after being **badgered** by his **friends**, abandoned by his **parents**, and **excommunicated** by the **Jewish leaders**. Through it all he continued to trust in Jesus!
4. Jesus gives the man **comfort** and **encouragement** (and tells him “*the rest of the story*”)
5. Important point—Jesus sought out the man. God doesn’t abandon or ignore His children
6. The fact that the **Pharisees thought they had sight** made their sins purposeful (willful)

**Q:** What are some ways we fail to “see” Jesus in our midst?

**Q:** How might we find ourselves in a similar situation as this blind man?

**Q:** How can we “put the focus” back on the Master where it belongs?

Contrast 9:39 (“*For judgment I came*”) with 3:17 (“*God did not send the Son...to judge*”) (NB: Jesus wasn’t sent to judge, but judgment comes as a result of His coming, since some accept Him and others reject Him.)

### Characteristics of the Blind Man

1. Joyful, Trusting, Loyal, Faithful, Obedient