

**The Blind Beggar: Seeing Jesus with Open Eyes**  
**John 9**  
**May 11, 2022**

**Introduction:** *A first century blind man encountered Jesus. And slowly, step by step, the blind man “saw” Jesus.*

**Centering Moment:**

**Worship Song:** *Open the eyes of my heart* [https://youtu.be/gcf\\_iyz3GK8](https://youtu.be/gcf_iyz3GK8)

**Video:** Jesus heals the blind man <https://youtu.be/DHBo7ka3YZQ>

**Review Questions:**

1. What do you admire about the blind man?
2. What do you think Christ’s words in verses 1-5 meant to the blind man at this point?
3. How would you describe the beggar's faith as he responded to the situation in verses 6 - 12?
4. Study the beggar’s conversation with the Pharisees in verses 13-34. What pressures did he have to cope with?
5. Notice the references to sin in regards to both the man and Jesus in verses 1-12, 29 and 34. Why are these kinds of accusations particularly painful? What is wrong with the view of sin portrayed by these accusations?
6. Verse 16 says that the Pharisees were divided in their opinion of Jesus. Why? How did the beggar draw on the debate he had heard between the Pharisees as he developed his own view of Jesus?
7. The beggar believed in Jesus at this point at least in part because of what Jesus had done for him. What has God done in your own life that has helped you to believe in God?
8. Study Christ’s closing conversation with the beggar in verses 35 - 41. How did the events leading to verse 34 prepare the beggar for this second meeting with Jesus?
9. Study the beggar’s statements of faith in verses 11-12, 17, 25, 27, 30-33 and 36-38. How does each statement reflect a gradual opening of his spiritual eyes?
10. What connections do you see between the blind man’s “faith statements” and some of the stages that your own faith has passed through?
11. If you were to explain to the Pharisees Christ’s statement about blindness and sight in verses 39-41, what would you say to them?
12. The beggar spent many years in darkness preparing to see. How have the dark times of your own life prepared you for deeper faith in Jesus?

**Reflection and prayer:** Pray, asking that Jesus will open the eyes of your soul to see Jesus clearly - and that you will be able to respond with a heart full of faith.

**Now and Later:** in the coming weeks be sensitive to the possibility that people along the normal path of your day may be spiritually blind to the reality of Jesus, but that God may be calling them to see. Be prepared to guide them toward spiritual sight.

**A Man Born Blind Receives Sight: John 9** <sup>1</sup>Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>I<sup>Ⓜ</sup> must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

<sup>6</sup>When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. <sup>7</sup>And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was <sup>Ⓜ</sup>blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

<sup>9</sup>Some said, "This is he." Others *said*, <sup>Ⓜ</sup>"He is like him." He said, "I am *he*."

<sup>10</sup>Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

<sup>11</sup>He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to <sup>Ⓜ</sup>the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

<sup>12</sup>Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

**The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man:** <sup>13</sup>They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

<sup>16</sup>Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not <sup>Ⓜ</sup>keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

<sup>17</sup>They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. <sup>19</sup>And they asked

them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

<sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that He was Christ*, he would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

<sup>25</sup> He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

<sup>26</sup> Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for this fellow*, we do not know where He is from."

<sup>30</sup> The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! <sup>31</sup> Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. <sup>32</sup> Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

<sup>34</sup> They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they <sup>Ⓜ</sup>cast him out.

**True Vision and True Blindness:** <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of <sup>Ⓜ</sup>God?"

<sup>36</sup> He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

<sup>37</sup> And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

<sup>38</sup> Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

<sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."

<sup>40</sup> Then *some* of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?"

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.