

John 9 is our text for today's lesson and it comes at an extremely important point in Jesus' life. What have the miracles been all about?

Attesting—proving by showing—who Jesus was, where he had come from, and why people ought to listen to him (**Acts 2:22**). At the very end of **John 8**, Jesus proclaimed, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am” (**8:58**) and some of the Jews picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (**9:1-2**)

Pay very careful attention to Jesus' answer in **9:3**:

“It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

What did Jesus mean by that? He goes on to spit on the ground and make mud with the saliva, “anointing” the man's eyes with mud and telling him to “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (**9:6-7**). When the man who had been born blind went and washed, he came back seeing!

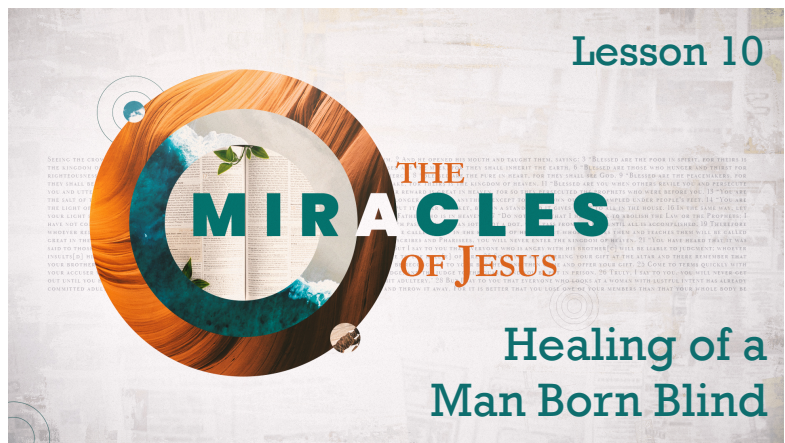


Eventually, the man is brought to the Pharisees who want to know how he had received his sight and why this was done on the Sabbath. Some doubt that the man had even *been* born blind so they call for his parents to answer their questions. But his parents “feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue” (**9:22**).

A second time the man who had been blind is called to “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner” (**9:24**). Notice the man's simple reply: “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see” (**9:25**). As he is challenged more and more by the unbelieving Pharisees, the man shows more and more clearly what he has come to see. “Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing” (**9:32-33**). And for that confession, he is cast out by the Pharisees.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. (**9:35-38**)

What does this mighty work show us about Jesus' authority and heart? **Let's talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's remember what had just happened at the end of **John 8**. What was Jesus really saying in **8:56-58**?
- Why would the disciples ask the sort of question they did in **9:1-2**? What did they seem to believe?
- **John 9:3** is a very important point in understanding this miracle and the overall point behind Jesus' miracles. In your own words, what is Jesus saying?
- Why were the blind man's parents afraid in **9:18-23**? What would it have meant for them to be "put out of the synagogue"?
- As you look back at what the Pharisees have to say in **9:24-34** and the way they act, how would you summarize the state of their hearts? What's going on inside them?
- Throughout **John 9**, we can watch as the identity of Jesus becomes more and more clear to the man who had been born blind. How did he refer to Jesus in **9:11**? And **9:17**? And **9:33**? And finally, **9:38**? What can we learn from that?
- What does this mighty work and sign teach us about Jesus' power and authority? And what does it reveal about his heart?
- Our last two lessons have ended with people worshiping Jesus. Is Jesus worthy of worship? If so, how can we know?