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# Healing the Eyes and the Heart

*Jesus in John 9*

Part 11 of the series – Three Years That Changed the World

## Open the Eyes of My Heart

- A contemporary Christian song originally recorded by Sonicflood (a Nashville band - sometimes referred to as “The Fathers of the Modern Worship Movement) for their debut album in 1999 and later recorded by Paul Baloche, Michael W. Smith, Phillips, Craig and Dean, as well as Randy Travis.
- The lyrics of the song are based on Ephesians 1:18; **“I pray that the eyes of your heart** may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people”
- I can’t help but think of the lyrics of this song when I read this story in John 9

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy  
We cry holy, holy, holy  
You are holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
You are holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you



## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So, the man went and washed and came home seeing.” (John 9:1-7)

- ✓ Isaiah prophesied of this very thing; “*I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.*” (Isaiah 42:6-7)
- ✓ As a public display of his claim to be “The Light of the World”, Jesus will give sight to a man who was born blind (someone who has never been able to see)

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- ✓ In the same way that Jesus chose to heal the severely disabled man (John 5:5-8) for a purpose, Jesus chooses to heal this man who had been blind since birth for a purpose
- ✓ Just like the severely disabled man (who was physically hopeless and helpless) who needed Jesus to heal him, this blind man (blind since birth) was also completely helpless to see without the healing touch of Jesus. The healing that Jesus offers is more than the physical healing of his eyes – Jesus provides a way to be healed from his spiritual blindness as well.

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- ✓ This statement by the disciples was probably based on Jewish doctrine which taught that physical infirmities/sufferings are caused by personal sin.
- ✓ As such, and given he was born blind, they produced one of two explanations:
  1. It was because this man sinned causing him to be born blind
  2. His parents sin caused the blindness

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- ✓ This question was based on a false premise that all “physical suffering” is the result of sin in general. There is not “always” a direct link between suffering and personal sin.
- ✓ A strong case against this false premise is the story of Job
- ✓ The purpose in this man’s blindness (since birth) was to show the “works of God” through miraculously healing this man from this infirmity.

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- ✓ Jesus points out there was a sense of urgency because the work his father sent him to do was to be done “***as long as it is day***” – probably meaning the brief time that Jesus was present with his disciples and only a few months remained until He would be crucified.
- ✓ There is no indication that Jesus ceases to be the Light of the World after his death (the disciples would carry on His work) but the Light shined most clearly and most brightly during the earthly ministry of Jesus

The map illustrates the layout of Jerusalem, focusing on the Temple Mount and its surrounding valleys. Key features include:

- Upper City:** Contains Herod's Palace, Herod's Towers, and the High Priest's House.
- Lower City:** Contains the Esse Quarter and the Esse Gate.
- Temple Mount:** Contains the Temple, Court of the Gentiles, and the Royal Portico.
- Valleys:** The Tyropoeon Valley and the Esse Valley are shown.
- Gates:** Various gates are marked, including the Fish Gate, Sheep Gate, and Golden Gate.
- Other Landmarks:** The Antonia Fortress, Bethesda's Pools, and the Siloam Pool are also indicated.

A red circle highlights the Siloam Pool, with an arrow pointing to it from the text "Current Historical Location".

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- ✓ We aren't told why Jesus chose to heal the man by making mud with his saliva (it is unique to the other miracles he performed) but some draw a parallel to God creating man from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). Perhaps the forming of the clay somewhat symbolized the creation of a brand-new set of eyes for this blind man.
- ✓ The blind man obediently did as Jesus instructed by washing in the "**Pool of Siloam**", (which happens to be where the high priest drew water during the Feast of Tabernacles) showing obedience and faith. The result was that he came home seeing, making this a miracle that confounded the religious leaders.



## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

“His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, **“Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”** **Some claimed that he was.** **Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”** But he himself insisted, **“I am the man.”** **“How then were your eyes opened?”** they asked. He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So, I went and washed, and then I could see.” **“Where is this man?”** they asked him. **“I don’t know,”** he said.”

(John 9:8-12)

- ✓ It is somewhat ironic, but it seems that some of the people found it easier to believe this wasn’t the same person (mistaken identity) than to believe a miracle just took place
- ✓ What couldn’t be disputed was his bold/emphatic declaration that it was really him who was healed. He describes what happened (he may not have been able to see what Jesus did by putting the mud on his eyes, but he certainly felt it) and what the results were.
- ✓ Jesus was no longer present, and the man had no idea what he looked like because he was blind at the time, so when they asked him where he was, he simply said – I don’t know.

# Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

“They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. **Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.** Therefore, the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” **Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?”** So, **they were divided.** Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” **The man replied, “He is a prophet.”**” (John 9:13-17)

- ✓ Since this was a significant miracle (healing someone that was blind from birth), the people brought the former blind man to the Pharisees to get their opinion on the matter.
- ✓ **The conclusion by the Pharisees was that Jesus could not be from God** and was **probably a false prophet** because **he violated the Sabbath.** Their claim was that he performed the act of “kneading” in which Jesus worked his saliva into the mud. This would be a stretch to show it was a violation of Mosaic Law but to the Pharisees it was. At best it was a violation of their “extra rabbinical law”
- ✓ This miracle, and the response of the Pharisees created some real confusion and division. **They couldn’t explain how a sinner could perform such a miracle,** but **the blind man** at least initially acknowledged that he was a prophet and **eventually believes that Jesus as the Messiah.**

## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

**“They still did not believe** that he had been blind and had received his sight until **they sent for the man’s parents**. “Is this your son?” they asked. **“Is this the one you say was born blind?”** How is it that now he can see?” **“We know he is our son,”** the parents answered, “and **we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age;** he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because **they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.** That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”” (John 9:18-23)

- ✓ The Pharisee’s still didn’t believe (they lacked faith and were spiritually blind themselves) and could only conclude that a mistake had been made, since they had already made up their minds that Jesus was not the Messiah and could not have been responsible for healing this blind man.
- ✓ The parents, already fearful of being excommunicated (“put out of the synagogue”) shifted the responsibility back on the Pharisees to ask their son to tell them what happened.
- ✓ The parents no doubt knew that Jesus healed their son – they just chose not to declare it was so

## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

**“A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” (John 9:24-25)**

- ✓ This was deliberate unbelief in its purest form - a stubborn and willful disregard for the truth. There was no science, no reasoning out of their findings. The Pharisees openly rejected the notion that Jesus was God and declared him to be a sinner which was something God was incapable of being.
- ✓ What was completely undeniable was the fact that this man had been blind since birth and now he has his sight. The one who changed that was Jesus for it was Jesus who healed him!
- ✓ You would think, after two attempts to prove this was anything but a miracle that only God could perform, that the Pharisees would repent and submit to Jesus – but they don’t! Instead, they choose to reject Jesus and continue with their inquisition of the man who was formerly blind.



## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

“Then they asked him, **“What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”** He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?” Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, **we don’t even know where he comes from.**” The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ” (John 9:26-30)

- ✓ The former blind man refused to deny what he knew was certain; **“I was blind but now I see”**. This seemed to trouble the Pharisees who rejected the whole notion.
- ✓ As such – the Pharisees continued in the hopes they might find a contradiction in his testimony by asking the same questions another way:
  - What (specifically) did he do to you?
  - How did he do it?

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- ✓ This exchange between the man and the Pharisees might be a “sarcastic” response given there wasn’t anything else that could be said.
- ✓ Was it possible the Pharisees could change their minds and become disciples of Jesus? Highly doubtful (based on their response) which is why most conclude this was a sarcastic (albeit) rhetorical question.
- ✓ This response by the man to the Pharisees no doubt struck a nerve resulting in some fiery rhetoric and rage from those who opposed Jesus.

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- ✓ The Pharisees retreated to what they were most comfortable with, claiming their allegiance to Moses, all the while rejecting the notion that Jesus was a part of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) that gave the Law and instructions to Moses to begin with.
- ✓ For the Pharisees (because of their pride) it was easier to declare their allegiance to Moses than to submit to Jesus.
- ✓ As such, their conclusion was that if an uneducated beggar like this man wanted to follow an outcast sinner like Jesus, that was his choice. They declared their allegiance to Moses.

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- ✓ The Pharisees couldn’t even bring themselves to mention Jesus by name but instead refer to him as “this fellow”.
- ✓ To make matters worse they claim to not know his origin (where he came from) and this may have been partially true as they may not have been aware of the miraculous birth of Jesus. The Pharisees saw Jesus as a “false prophet, a blasphemer, one who was untrained, and from an insignificant family from Nazareth.
- ✓ They couldn’t have been more wrong, and the formerly blind man was amazed at their ignorance. He was moving closer to Jesus while the Pharisees were moving away from him.



## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

**“We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”** To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.” (John 9:31-34)

- ✓ The obvious conclusion by the formerly blind man was that God and Jesus were One since apart from God Jesus could not have done what he did by healing him.
- ✓ This was no insignificant conclusion and may well have been a direct revelation by God to this man who was originally born blind and brought to this very place at this specific time to be healed by Jesus and bring glory to God.
- ✓ Sadly, although the Pharisees were presented with irrefutable proof of the divine power of Jesus, they still choose to willfully deny the undeniable.

***“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14, NKJV)***

## The Man Who Was Born Blind Can Now See (Physically and Spiritually)

**“Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him” (John 9:35-38)**

- ✓ Jesus takes the initiative to seek out the formerly blind man and in the same way that He granted physical sight to this man, **he now sought to open his “spiritual eyes”**

***“As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one” (Romans 3:10-12)***

***“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life” (John 6:44-47)***

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- ✓ The man responded that he was willing to believe but perhaps his ignorance or lack of understanding held him back. Up to this point he viewed Jesus as a prophet (one who speaks for God).
- ✓ Jesus discloses himself to the man giving him the necessary knowledge for faith leaving the action of his will to submit and obey based on the information Jesus provided.
- ✓ This resulted in the formerly blind man (sometimes referred to as the beggar) responding in faith “Lord I believe and worship you”.
- ✓ His worship of Jesus (the one who saves) replaced his worship of the things of man – **The Eyes of His Heart Were Opened!**

## Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

“Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, **so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.**” Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? **Are we blind too?**” Jesus said, “**If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.**” (John 9:39-41)

- ✓ The Pharisees on the other hand were blind to the truth and unable to accept Jesus as God in the flesh, The Messiah, The Savior and as such they continued in their spiritual blindness
- ✓ Jesus doesn't condemn them by making them blind, they blind themselves by rejecting him and continuing to be deceived by the evil one (Satan).

***“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*** (II Corinthians 4:4)

- ✓ The Pharisees were responsible for their sins because they rejected Jesus willfully and being “teachers of the Law” made their rejection even worse for them!



## Concluding Thoughts

- ✓ In the same way that the blind beggar acknowledged his spiritual blindness and turned to the Light (Jesus) you can do the same and will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life**” (John 8:12)

- ✓ The Pharisees on the other hand chose to love the darkness more than the light and unfortunately will find different results.

***“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil”*** (John 3:19)

# Open the Eyes of My Heart - Hillsong

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see you  
I want to see you

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
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I want to see you  
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To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
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Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you  
I want to see you

I want to see you