

November 11, 2018

John 9

The Blind See, but the Seeing are Blind

Can you imagine being blind?

Think how hard it would be to get dressed and shave or put on make-up if you couldn't see. Imagine the difficulty of preparing a meal, shopping for household supplies, or going to work. Being blind would present some serious challenges.

Did you know there's a condition far more serious than physical blindness? In this week's scripture you'll see Jesus tell some of the Jewish religious leaders that they had that serious condition. Read **John 9:1-41** to learn about it.

John 9:1-2 Jesus and His disciples saw a man who had been blind all his life. What did the disciples ask Jesus?

Many of the Jews believed that all physical illness was the direct result of one's personal sin. Jesus' disciples assumed the man was blind either because of his sin or because of the sin of his parents. Jesus gave them a surprising answer.

John 9:3 Why did He say the man was born blind?

John 9:4-5 Jesus said: "As long as I am in the world, _____ the _____ of the world."

John 9:6 What did Jesus do to the blind man?

John 9:7 What happened to the blind man?

John 9:8-12 Those who knew the man were amazed that he could see. They asked what had happened to him, so he told them.

John 9:13 Where did they take the formerly blind man?

John 9:14 What day of the week was it?

The Pharisees had very strict rules about what one could do on the Sabbath. In **John 5**, the Pharisees got very upset at Jesus for healing a lame man and then telling the man to carry his bed. They considered that "work," which violated the Sabbath. In healing the blind man, Jesus had done it again. His act of making clay from dirt and saliva was considered "kneading," so the Pharisees were again angry with Him for violating the Sabbath.

John 9:15-16 The Pharisees questioned the man about how Jesus healed him. What two opinions did the Pharisees have about Jesus?

John 9:17-19 The Jews didn't believe the man had been blind at all. Who did they call in for questioning?

John 9:20-21 What did the parents say?

The parents were afraid because the Jews had already decided to “*put out of the synagogue*” anyone who confessed that Jesus was the Christ. To be put out of the synagogue meant to be completely cut off from Israel’s religious life and to be a social outcast.

- John 9:24-25** The Jewish religious leaders told the formerly blind man that they had decided Jesus was a sinner. The man answered: “One thing I know, that, whereas I was _____, now I _____.”
- John 9:26-29** The Jews questioned the man further. They were unkind and harsh toward him.
- John 9:30-33** The man rebuked the Pharisees for their spiritual blindness. What did he say about Jesus?
- John 9:34** The Jews put the man out of the synagogue.
- John 9:35** Jesus found the man. What did He ask him?
- John 9:36** What did the man ask about the Son of God?
- John 9:37** What did Jesus tell him?
- John 9:38** What did the man say and do?
- John 9:39** Jesus said He had come into the world so that “they which see not might _____; and that they which see might be made _____.”
- John 9:40** What did the Pharisees ask Jesus?
- John 9:41** The Jewish religious leaders saw the light of Jesus Christ, but they rejected Him. Therefore they remained in their sinful, lost condition.

Concluding Thoughts: The blind man was pitiful. He couldn’t work, so he spent his days begging. Jesus gave the man physical sight and completely changed his life. Jesus also opened the man’s eyes spiritually, he confessed faith in Christ, and he has been with Jesus in heaven for 2,000 years. What a change!

The Pharisees and other religious leaders were at the very top of Jewish society. They had wealth, power, and respectability, but they were spiritually blind and rejected Jesus Christ. Those who continued in their rejection have spent the last 2,000 years in the torment of hell.

Spiritual blindness is far worse than physical blindness!

Do you know anyone who is spiritually blind? That person may be a very wicked sinner or he or she might be a religious person. Either way, the spiritually blind person rejects Jesus Christ. Pray that God will open the eyes of your spiritually blind friend.

Project: Memorize **John 9:5**. Pray daily for those you know who are spiritually blind.