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By Dan Maines

## **John 9**

### **John 9:1-2**

As Jesus passed by, He saw a man who had been blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"

† The disciples reflected common Jewish thought: suffering was tied to sin. Yet Scripture shows that trials may serve higher purposes.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QH 4.37-38) reveal a worldview that

often linked sin with affliction.

### **John 9:3**

Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

† Jesus redirected their thinking: this man's blindness was an opportunity for God's glory.

### **John 9:4-5**

"We must carry out the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

† Jesus emphasized urgency. His mission was temporary in the flesh, yet He shone as the Light of the world.

### **John 9:6-7**

When He had said this, He spit on the ground, and made mud from the saliva, and applied the mud to his eyes, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he left and washed, and came back seeing.

† Jesus used humble means to heal, pointing to faith and obedience. The pool of Siloam, meaning "Sent," symbolized Christ as the One sent from the Father.

† Archaeology has uncovered the Pool of Siloam, confirming John's detail.

### **John 9:8-9**

So the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is this not the one who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "This is the one"; others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one."

† The miracle was undeniable, yet some refused to believe even the evidence before them.

### **John 9:10-12**

So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made mud, and spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight." And they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

† His testimony was simple: obedience to Jesus brought sight.

### **John 9:13-16**

*They brought the man who was previously blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath on the day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied mud to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." So some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was dissension among them.*

† The controversy was over Sabbath law, not the miracle. Their blindness was spiritual, elevating tradition above truth.

† Josephus (Antiquities 16.2.3) notes Jewish debates on Sabbath regulations, echoing this conflict.

### **John 9:17-18**

So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." The Jews then did not believe it about him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight.

† The healed man confessed Jesus as a prophet, growing in faith. Leaders hardened further, demanding more evidence.

### **John 9:19-23**

And they questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" His parents then answered and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know. Or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already reached the decision that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be excommunicated from the synagogue. It was for this reason that his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

† Fear of excommunication silenced the parents. Social pressure was strong, but truth remained.

† The Mishnah (Sanhedrin 11:1) reflects the seriousness of being cut off from synagogue fellowship.

### **John 9:24-25**

So for a second time they summoned the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

† The healed man gave the most powerful testimony: personal transformation.

### **John 9:26-27**

So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?"

† His boldness grew. From a beggar, he now challenged the leaders.

### **John 9:28-29**

They spoke abusively to him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from."

† They claimed Moses, yet rejected the One Moses foretold. Their pride blinded them to fulfillment.

### **John 9:30-33**

The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is the amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes! We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if someone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."

† The healed man reasoned clearly: such a miracle proved divine backing. His faith surpassed the leaders' blindness.

### **John 9:34**

They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and yet you are teaching us?" So they put him out.

† Unable to refute him, they resorted to insult and rejection.

### **John 9:35-38**

Jesus heard that they had put him out, and upon finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered by saying, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." And he said, "I believe, Lord." And he worshiped Him.

† The healed man moved from seeing Jesus as man, to prophet, to Lord. His worship declared true faith.

## **John 9:39-41**

And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Those who were with Him from the Pharisees heard these things, and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; however, now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

† Christ reversed expectations: the blind received sight, the proud became blind. Recognition of need is the path to grace; pride is the path to judgment.

### **How it applies to us today**

† Suffering is not always punishment; it may display God's glory.

† Testimony of transformation is powerful against unbelief.

† Fear of rejection must not silence truth.

† Jesus gives spiritual sight, but pride blinds.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### **Source Index**

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QH 4.37-38 – affliction and sin association

† Archaeology – Pool of Siloam discovery

† Josephus, Antiquities 16.2.3 – Sabbath disputes

† Mishnah, Sanhedrin 11:1 – synagogue expulsion

† Augustine, Homilies on John – stages of faith in the blind man

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