

JOHN

Chapter 9

Note from Kathy

I am often amazed when I discover things that actually change my life. When introduced to them my life was changed in such a way I never wanted to go back. The ease of an automatic engine in my car and cordless phones, drive through windows at banks and restaurants, the convenience of the internet and online shopping just to name a few. But far beyond any of these temporal comforts is the eternal change that Jesus made in my heart and life. I was filled with fears and anxiety when I met Jesus June 1, 1986. He forgave my sins and filled me with a peace I had never known. I have walked with him and learned to trust him more and more and our relationship has grown throughout the years. He has never failed me. His love is like no other. I am praying for you as you enjoy your time in John's gospel and get to know the wonderful and matchless love of Jesus.

Genesis 2:7

"Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

Pool of Siloam



Observation

1. This is an amazing chapter. I love reading about each of the miracles that Jesus performed. What miracles have we seen thus far in the gospel of John? List as many as you can remember.
2. How long had this blind man suffered when Jesus and the disciples met him? _____
3. What did Jesus use to heal this man? _____

Read Genesis 2:7. What did God use to create man?

John 5:8, 16-18

⁸“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ¹⁶So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. ¹⁷In his defense Jesus said to them, ‘My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working. ¹⁸For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God.”

4. What instructions was this man given by Jesus? What was the result?
5. Many people came in contact with this man before and after this miracle. Fill in the chart below.

Had Contact	Attitude of each toward the blind man
Disciples	
Jesus	
Neighbors	
Pharisees	
Parents	

6. It was the custom of the Jews at that time to turn to the Pharisees to gain understanding of difficult matters. So, the man was brought to the Pharisees to figure this whole matter out. What day of the week had Jesus performed this beautiful miracle? _____
7. Do you recall the response of the Pharisees to Jesus' miracle in John 5? Read John 5:8, 16-18 to refresh your memory. Has anything changed? How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus' gracious act of kindness in giving a blind man sight in John 9?
8. The Pharisees were divided in their opinion about Jesus. What were the two arguments concerning Jesus in John 9:16?
 - a.
 - b.
9. The Pharisees did not believe this miracle even though the healed man was standing right in front of them. According to verses 18-23, who was summoned, and why did they answer the Pharisee's questioning the way they did?
10. The Pharisees called the man back up to question him again. This time the Pharisees accused Jesus of being a sinner. In verse 25, how did the man who had been miraculously given his sight respond to this accusation against Jesus?

John 9:38

"Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him."

Romans 10:9-10

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

11. How does he answer them in verse 27-33? How might this get him into trouble?
12. How did the religious leaders respond to this man's boldness for Jesus?
13. Jesus heard the man he healed was thrown out of the synagogue by the Pharisees. Jesus wants the man to know that even though he is suffering persecution today, that he can have hope and a future. Jesus continues to help him see the truth concerning who it was who gave him his sight. According to John 9:38, what did this man do to prove his salvation was real?

Read Romans 10:9-10 to clarify this man's response that day.

14. In verses 39-41, Jesus spoke to those who did not recognize the need for a relationship with God and those who presented themselves as ones who had a relationship with God. What did Jesus say would be the outcome for each when the truth was presented:
 - a. Those who were spiritually blind (humble and in need)
 - b. Those who profess to see (prideful arrogance)
15. The Pharisee's were offended at Jesus' words. They considered themselves well versed in the Scriptures. They professed to know God, and yet, they did not recognize Messiah. How did Jesus respond when they asked the question, "Are we blind also?"

What did Jesus know about these men that others might not be able to see?

Application

1. Quite often doctors can perform a surgery or administer medicine to restore someone's sight. How were the events of John 9 totally different than what medical doctors do today?
2. The disciples asked Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?" If it were the man who had sinned, when would he have had to do it?

Is that even possible?

The disciples assumed that punishment for "sin" was the cause of bad things in life. Can you think of a time when you found yourself judging another person's bad situation, rather than considering how you could help them in their situation?

3. Jesus had not come to point fingers and assign blame. Jesus came to do his Father's will. Jesus says in Luke 19:10, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Jesus moved with compassion as he went about doing the will of his Father who sent him. Does the word "compassion" describe how you go about your daily activities?

Briefly share an example of you extending unplanned compassion this week.

4. Jesus spit and made a mud salve for the man's eyes and told him very specifically where to wash them. This seems an unusual assignment. Has God ever given you an unusual assignment as an answer to a life-long prayer? Did you immediately obey?

5. The man's neighbors saw him walking around unassisted—he was no longer blind. They questioned him as to how this could be. Did the man have a full understanding and explanation?

What did he share with them?

Are the workings of God in our life something we can explain?

Share a time when God miraculously and unexplainably moved in your life or the life of someone dear to you.

6. The Pharisees were divided in their opinion of Jesus and his miracles. When the man who had been healed was asked what his opinion was he simply responded that his eyes had been opened. Do you ever feel like the blind man?

You know the change the Lord has brought in your heart and life, but you can't explain how He did it. How are you different because of your relationship with Jesus?

7. If you have never written your personal testimony, let me share with you a plan that will help. Clear some time to sit and write the events that led to your personal encounter with Jesus. It may take several pages. Now, eliminate as many details as you can until it's one or two paragraphs. Take a lesson from the blind man's testimony of John 9, I was blind all my life until one day I met Jesus, and now I see. Have fun writing. If you have not experienced the life-changing and heart-transforming meeting with Jesus I would love to visit with you and introduce you to my savior, Jesus. My email is jpatton1@cox.net.

Psalms 34:15-16

"The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; ¹⁶but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth."

Psalms 66:16-18

"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. ¹⁷I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. ¹⁸If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;"

Psalms 145:17-20

"The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. ¹⁸The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy."

8. The Pharisees questioned the man's parents to verify he was born blind. The parents were afraid to say too much because they had heard the Jewish leaders intended to put out of the synagogue anyone who acknowledged Jesus was the Messiah. Can you recall a time when you were silent concerning your faith for fear of what someone might think, say or do? Briefly explain.

9. In verses 24-34 we saw the boldness of this man as he addressed the accusations of the Pharisees, and we see it came at a cost. He was thrown out of the temple that day. How has sharing the good news of the gospel cost you?

We do not want to go around starting conversations that will spark trouble, but are you ready to share what Jesus has done for you if you're asked?

10. The blind man that Jesus healed acknowledged the gift of sight could only come from God. He also said that God does not listen to sinners, but listens to godly people who do his will. Psalms 34:15-16, Psalms 66:16-18 and Psalms 145:17-20 all teach that God hears the

prayers of the righteous—those who have been justified and vindicated by God. His final reasoning was that “if this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” Do you believe any of these Scriptural references would have persuaded the Pharisees that day?

11. What does that tell you about sharing the truth with some people?
12. What character qualities did Jesus display in this chapter?
13. Which one of Jesus' character qualities would you like to focus on this week?
14. Summarize what you have studied in John 9.