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The Glory of God: John 9

Today Jesus will give a blind man sight to illustrate that all humans are spiritually blind without his help.

To watch the *Blindsight* documentary that was mentioned visit [go2cornerstone.com/blindsight](http://go2cornerstone.com/blindsight).

**Jesus sees people differently than culture does:**

John 9:1-5, <sup>1</sup>As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

- The disciple’s theological confusion should inspire humility in us.
- The disciples were focused on a theological puzzle & assigning blame, not so much in helping the man.
- Instead of focusing on the man as a theology problem, Jesus saw a chance to help someone feel God’s love.

**Is it fair that God makes someone’s life hard just so He can get glory from helping?**

- Remember, God didn’t cause this blindness, Adam’s sin did.
- Yes, God allows suffering, but He helps us as we suffer, and will one day bring an end to all suffering.
- The answer to this question would be even harder if Jesus didn’t choose to make his own life hard to give glory to His Father.
- Visit [go2cornerstone.com/safe](http://go2cornerstone.com/safe) for information on the book mentioned: *Safe in the Arms of God*

**Jesus’ method of healing was unique & required humility:**

John 9:6-7, <sup>6</sup>After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup>“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

- The healing was connected to the man’s faith and obedience (“go/wash”).
- Many would be offended by mud made with spit being rubbed in their eyes. This illustrates that humility is required to receive God’s help.

**Jesus helped him physically to open the door to help him spiritually:**

John 9:10, <sup>10</sup>“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

- Psalm 146:8, *the Lord gives sight to the blind...* (only God can do it!)
- It was prophesied the Messiah would do this: Isaiah 35:5, *Then will the eyes of the blind be opened...*
- Jesus’ physical help led them to think about God. That’s what happens when we help people in Jesus’ name!

### **Following Jesus has lots of obstacles we need to overcome:**

John 9:19-22, <sup>19</sup> "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" <sup>20</sup> "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> 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." <sup>22</sup> 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.

- The blind man lacked support from his parents (v.22), was asked tough questions (v.25), and was not treated well by leaders (vv.28; 34).
- He didn't have all the answers, but he had a powerful testimony.

### **Spiritual sight is the most important healing every human needs:**

John 9:35-38, <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

### **Look at the progression of the blind man's spiritual knowledge: Jesus is...**

- a man (John 9:11)
- a prophet (John 9:17)
- my teacher (John 9:27)
- from God (John 9:33)
- the Son of God (John 9:35-36)
- who I trust & worship (John 9:38)

### **That's great for him, but I'm not blind, am I?**

John 9:39-40, <sup>39</sup> Jesus said! "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

- Physical blindness was a metaphor for the spiritual blindness all humans have before Jesus opens their eyes.
- But you may still have spiritual blind spots that God wants to give you clarity on if:
  - you read the Bible, but it doesn't grow your love for God...
  - you consider yourself only a little sinner, not a big one...
  - you believe the world will satisfy you...
  - you feel safe & secure because of your savings or job...
- Visit [go2cornerstone.com/blindspot](http://go2cornerstone.com/blindspot) to read an article Pastor Andy wrote in 2017 about discovering our spiritual blind spots.