



A Blind Man Met Jesus

John 9

John 9 tells a great story of Jesus healing a man who had been blind from birth. To treat him, Jesus made mud by mixing spit and dirt (oops... sorry, mom! - by mixing "saliva" and dirt) and putting it on the man's eyes. After the man washes off this mixture, he can see.

When the man's neighbors see him, they start to argue among themselves, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some say, "Yes, that is the blind man." Others say, "Sure, it LOOKS like the blind man, but it can't be him!"

The man who has just been healed, 'I hate to interrupt such a profound debate, but I can handle this question! I am the man.' When they ask what happened, he responds, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes."

Suddenly, the poor guy is in trouble with the religious leaders - because the miracle took place on the Sabbath. When they question him, he repeats his story, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Now they start to argue about whether Jesus was a sinner for healing on the Sabbath. When they ask the man for his opinion, he says, "He is a prophet." This man may not know much about Old Testament law, but he knows that he now can see and that must mean something!

The Pharisees don't like this answer, so they decide, "Maybe this isn't the blind man." They call his parents in for questioning, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents must answer carefully because the Jewish leaders have agreed to excommunicate anyone who recognizes Jesus as Messiah. They respond, 'Yes, he is our son. Yes, he was born blind. But we don't know how he sees. He's an adult; ask him yourself.' They were not going to get caught in the middle of this conflict!

The religious leaders call the poor man back in for more questions. (I wonder if he started to think, 'Wow - being a blind beggar was easier than being healed!') They tell him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."

And now comes my favorite part of the story. I love the man's answer: "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

This man cannot answer the arguments of the scholars, but he knows one thing for sure: "I was blind; now I can see!"

After they throw the man out of the synagogue, Jesus finds him and asks, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man answers, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." The man needed to hear no more. He responded, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

What a great story! A blind man (probably uneducated and with no religious training) is healed and suddenly finds himself in conflict with the leading religious officials of the day.

In this story, we see something of the process of moving from unbelief to faith. The first time, he refers to the "man called Jesus." Later, he calls Jesus "a prophet." By the end of the chapter, he says, "Lord, I believe."

Today, many people recognize Jesus as a great teacher. Others acknowledge that he was a divinely gifted prophet, and even miracle-worker. But God's goal is bigger. He wants us to see that Jesus is Lord.

When I have met some honest seekers after truth, I have recommended, "Let your theological and philosophical questions rest for a few weeks. Just read the gospels and look at Jesus. As you see Him, many of your questions will be answered."

Jesus healed this man's physical blindness. But even more importantly, Jesus opened his spiritual eyes. If we let him, Jesus will open our eyes to the truth. If you are an unbeliever who is seeking the truth, know that there is a God who loves you and who wants to show you the wondrous beauty of His Son, Jesus of Nazareth. Let Him open your eyes!