

NORTH MAIN SERMON FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 15, 2026

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

John 9: 1-41 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. ¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So, they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” ²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ 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.” ²² 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. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” ²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?” ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, ^[a] “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” ⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.. the word of God

The Messiah performed a lot of miracles. The healing of the man blind from birth is among the most powerful miracles of Jesus Christ, not just because of how his sight was restored, but also how it affected the lives of the blind man and the people around him. This is the only time in the Bible where a **man** who was born blind receives his sight. Many times in the gospels we see **Jesus healing men** who were blind, but those were

people who had **sight** & lost it, but this **man** in John 9 never had sight. **Healing the blind** is both a work of God and a summary of the story work of the Messiah:

The whole ninth chapter of John talks about the man who receives sight through the miraculous healing of Jesus Christ. And as he walked along ...” The calm start to this story is a bit misleading. Jesus has just narrowly escaped being stoned to death! Jesus is teaching in the Temple when the Jews take up stones to kill him. He manages to escape them, melting into the crowd and making his way out of the Temple precincts. But in passing out of the Temple area he sees a man who has been born blind—the only case in all the Gospels of one who was so disabled and healed. Jesus stops. It is instructive that Jesus stops and notices the man under the circumstances, fleeing from his enemies who would kill him. And what happens after that is a marvelous lesson in witnessing.

As Jesus was passing by, he saw the blind man who was blind from birth. Even though not everyone in the ancient world agreed that disabilities were the result of sin or divine curses, we can see in the disciples’ question here a blunt assumption that someone must be to blame for the man’s condition. The disciples of Christ are quick to ask what caused the pitiable condition of the blind man. Is it because of his sin or the sin of his parents? Jesus Christ answered that it was not the fault of the blind man nor of his parents, ***but it happened so that the work of God should be revealed in him.*** Shortly, Christ healed the blind man and he received his sight! The man was blind from his birth. He has every reason to shake his fist in the face of God and question his goodness and love. However, what most people think as a curse has turned into a *blessing* in this man’s life. If it hadn’t been because of his blindness, he wouldn’t have encountered the Messiah.

Because of the miraculous event that surrounded the blind man, this has caught the attention of the Pharisees. They brought the healed blind man and interrogated him. Because of the testimony of the healed man, he was excommunicated by the Pharisees. Later, Jesus found the healed man again and there, he became a follower of the Messiah. He recognized Christ as the true Son of God and worshipped Him.

The lessons we can learn from this story are...

Lesson no. 1: Jesus notices even the least among us

During the time of Christ, the blind men and those people with physical infirmities are considered a burden to the society. Most of them are left by their family and end up begging food and money in the streets. They are looked down upon as among lowest class in the society. They have no wealth nor power for other people to respect them. However, Jesus was an exception. Surely, if Christ would notice anyone, it should be the rich. But no. Christ is different. **He sees even the least among us** and this includes the blind man. We read in John 9:1: Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

If you look into the previous chapter of John, we read that Christ was fleeing from a mob who wanted to kill him. Yet, Jesus still took the time to notice the blind man! Our weakness should lead us to God

In many cases, those who are well and healthy are the ones who don't see the need for God. They have a good life already, so why would they need God? However, those who are weak, sick, and in need are the ones who are more likely to encounter God and seek Help greater than themselves!

God has the power to turn trials into blessings. The man was born blind and he obtained the honor to be healed by no other than the Word, the very Son of God. Through the blind man, Christ showed that He is truly the Light of this darkened world. He is the source of the Great Light and anyone who follows Him must obtain their light as well from Him. The Jews in Christ's day lived in the illusion that every suffering is caused directly by a sin they commit. While it is true that sin does lead to suffering, illness, and a lot of problems, in some cases, *we suffer not because of our own doing*. It is sad to know that it has been a great while that the blind man didn't know the real reason why he was born blind. He could have blamed himself and his parents. His society definitely blamed them for their situation.

However, now the time comes that the Light of the world approaches the man who sits in darkness. All of his sufferings were culminating to this

great day when the blind man will have his sight restored and meet the Messiah.

You might be wondering why Jesus Christ has to spit on the ground and make clay to anoint the man's eye. From our perspective, it sounds weird and superstitious.

Obviously, Christ won't do anything without any cause or purpose. After all, Christ could have easily said a word or simply touch the man's eye, but he didn't. Instead, he used clay and his saliva. Thus, it is important to see the reason behind such action. One reason we could see is that Jesus wants other people to see that *He isn't limited to one method of healing*. He can do anything and still accomplish what he wants.

Moreover, Christ was making a point here. The Jewish authorities created their own do's and don'ts in the Sabbath - things that are beyond what God intended it to be. Instead of calling the Sabbath a blessing, because of the many man-made traditions the religious leaders added, the Sabbath became a burden. It was a Sabbath when Christ healed the blind man. The Jewish leaders taught that healing is prohibited in the Sabbath. Not only that but making clay is also deemed to be a Sabbath violation.

Now, it is important to note that this isn't a commandment God has made, but only an addition made by the Jewish leaders. Jesus Christ seized this as an opportunity to show the religious leaders and the people around Him how they made the Sabbath a burden rather than a delight. Before healing the blind man, Christ explained: "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). Christ is the true Source of Light and we must get our light from Him. It is through our good works that we become lights to this darkened world.

Christ did not call the Pharisees or the religious leaders of His day. He didn't call the emperors of the great kingdoms. He didn't call the rulers of the land. He didn't call the learned and educated lawyers. But he called the least of them all. In this case, God called the blind man. In the society, he is considered to be among the lowliest. He is a beggar who could not even support himself but has to depend on other people for sustenance.

People like him recognize the need for God and thus, are humbled. The wise and mighty feel they are sufficient by themselves. They feel they don't need God anymore. Their good life made their conscience dull and complacent in search for God. These are the most important lessons we can learn from the blind man whom Christ healed mentioned in John 9.

Let this blind man be our witnessing guide. But you say, "Wait a minute! That's not fair. This man's need was not only physical blindness but also spiritual—he needed acceptance; he needed to know somebody cared. He needed to know that God cared. And Jesus filled his need. Jesus fills that need in all of our lives even when we don't think we need him. When Jesus met that need for this blind man, it made a difference in his life.

His neighbors, those who formerly knew the man, that he was blind, said, "This is not the blind man, is it?" And some people said, "Oh, yes, this is he." Others said, "No, this is not the blind man—it just looks like him." The man himself insisted, "Wait a minute. It is! The physical change was very small. His eyes were shut, and now they were open. Why did they suddenly not know a man because his eyes were open?

Because they didn't notice him when his eyes were shut! But there was a definite change in the man who had been blind, not a big one physically, but very real—something definitely happened. He was running around, he was seeing, he was talking to people—he was different. And they were asking questions about it.

They asked questions not just about the man himself but also about Jesus: "Where is the man who did this? Tell us about him." It's good to see a crowd of people wanting to see Jesus without rocks in their hands. They were going to build their idea about the man who healed the blindness on the basis of what the healed man said and how he acted.

Questions were left in the mind of the man who had been blind, too. They said to him, "Where is he?" And he said, "I don't know. The fellow didn't have all the answers. The man still didn't know why he was born blind. The man did not find out why Jesus picked him of all the people there on that particular Sunday afternoon who needed healing.

We also find that his sharing of what happened to him brought forth varying responses from the people around him. When the man was brought to the Pharisees and questioned, they were divided. Some said,

"This man Jesus can't be from God. He healed on the Sabbath." Others said, "What do you mean? A man cannot do these things unless he's from God!" The Pharisees came back to the once blind man and said, "Well, what do you say? He healed you, you say. What do you think about it?" "He's a prophet." Then they laughed in his face, and it was clear they really didn't believe he had ever been blind.

The man was summoned again by the Pharisees who said, "Well, fellow, you might as well admit that this man's a sinner." That was when he got angry and suggested that they were supposed to know the answers: "You don't even know where he is from, and he healed me!" It was very natural—he just told what had happened to him. He told them, to the best of his ability, who did it. He didn't embellish it. He just told what happened. He said, "Whether this man is a sinner or not, I don't know. . . I was blind and now I see. One thing I do know—my life is not what it was or what it would have been without him. Their reply was to kick him out of the synagogue! Like this blind man, because we study God's Word, and because we want to have fellowship with others who trust him—we have the assurance, as John says in his letters, that we are loved and special and that Jesus picks us even when we don't know why.

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