

THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

INTRODUCTION

According to the National Institutes of Health, about 36 million people in the world are blind which means that they cannot respond to visual stimuli. While we do not know how many suffered from this same ailment in the First Century, we do know that there were quite a number of them because Jesus healed one in John 9. He met him in Jerusalem and restored his sight which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at “4 Stages to the Healing of the Blind Man in this Passage.”

1). Jesus’ Conversation with the Disciples about it (verses 1-5).

The story begins with the disciples asking Jesus “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind” (verse 2)? The reason they asked Him this question is because blindness was largely caused by a sexually transmitted disease at this time that was inherited by the parents. In other words, it was brought about by someone’s moral failure and the 12 wanted to know if it was the same way here.

Discussion Question A: What was Jesus’ response to their question and what did He mean when He said in verse 3 that this occurred “so that the works of God might be displayed in him?”

Discussion Question B: In verse 5, Jesus told them that “I am the light of the world.” How does this relate to the man’s situation as well?

2). The Healing Itself (verses 6-12).

After His brief discussion with the disciples, Jesus went on to heal the man by doing several things. First, He spat on the ground. Then He made clay out of the spittle. Then He told the man to “go wash in the pool of Siloam.” At which point, it says that “he went away and washed, and came back seeing” (verse 7).

Discussion Question A: Where was the Pool of Siloam and why did Jesus tell the man to go wash there?

Discussion Question B: Did it require a lot of faith for the man to do this? Why / why not? What would the man have been thinking about as he walked to the pool? What did the crowds think about it when he returned in verses 8-10?

3). The Man's Trial before the Pharisees (verses 13-34).

Verses 13-16 says that, "[The crowd] brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, 'He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Therefore 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 division among them."

Discussion Question A: In your own words, summarize the rest of this part of the story.

Discussion Question B: Did the man's trial before the Pharisees end well? Why was it so hostile and can you explain what it was that caused them to excommunicate him from the synagogue?

4). The Man's Conversation with Jesus Afterwards (verses 35-41).

Verse 35 tells us that when Jesus heard that they had put this man out, He found him and asked if he believed in "the Son of Man." The man wanted to know who Jesus was referring to and He said "Me." Verse 38 tells us that he believed and worshipped Christ in response.

Discussion Question A: Was this the first time someone ever worshipped Jesus in the Gospel of John? How is that significant?

Discussion Question B: The passage ends by Jesus telling the man "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind" (verse 39). What is this referring to and why does Jesus say that at the conclusion of this chapter?