

Do you want to see, or do you  
want to become blind?

# John 9

- 1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.
- 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
- 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.
- 4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.
- 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

- 1 Jésus vit, en passant, un homme aveugle de naissance.
- 2 Ses disciples lui firent cette question: Rabbi, qui a péché, cet homme ou ses parents, pour qu'il soit né aveugle?
- 3 Jésus répondit: Ce n'est pas que lui ou ses parents aient péché; mais c'est afin que les oeuvres de Dieu soient manifestées en lui.
- 4 Il faut que je fasse, tandis qu'il est jour, les oeuvres de celui qui m'a envoyé; la nuit vient, où personne ne peut travailler.
- 5 Pendant que je suis dans le monde, je suis la lumière du monde.

**6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.**

**7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.**

**8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"**

**9 Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."**

**10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"**

**11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."**

**6 Après avoir dit cela, il cracha à terre, et fit de la boue avec sa salive. Puis il appliqua cette boue sur les yeux de l'aveugle,**

**7 et lui dit: Va, et lave-toi au réservoir de Siloé (nom qui signifie envoyé). Il y alla, se lava, et s'en retourna voyant clair.**

**8 Ses voisins et ceux qui auparavant l'avaient connu comme un mendiant disaient: N'est-ce pas là celui qui se tenait assis et qui mendiait?**

**9 Les uns disaient: C'est lui. D'autres disaient: Non, mais il lui ressemble. Et lui-même disait: C'est moi.**

**10 Ils lui dirent donc: Comment tes yeux ont-ils été ouverts?**

**11 Il répondit: L'Homme qu'on appelle Jésus a fait de la boue, a oint mes yeux, et m'a dit: Va au réservoir de Siloé, et lave-toi. J'y suis allé, je me suis lavé, et j'ai recouvré la vue.**

**12 Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."**

**13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.**

**14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.**

**15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."**

**16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.**

**17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."**

**12 Ils lui dirent: Où est cet homme? Il répondit: Je ne sais.**

**13 Ils menèrent vers les pharisiens celui qui avait été aveugle.**

**14 Or, c'était un jour de sabbat que Jésus avait fait de la boue, et lui avait ouvert les yeux.**

**15 De nouveau, les pharisiens aussi lui demandèrent comment il avait recouvré la vue. Et il leur dit: Il a appliqué de la boue sur mes yeux, je me suis lavé, et je vois.**

**16 Sur quoi quelques-uns des pharisiens dirent: Cet homme ne vient pas de Dieu, car il n'observe pas le sabbat. D'autres dirent: Comment un homme pécheur peut-il faire de tels miracles?**

**17 Et il y eut division parmi eux. Ils dirent encore à l'aveugle: Toi, que dis-tu de lui, sur ce qu'il t'a ouvert les yeux? Il répondit: C'est un prophète.**

- 18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.**
- 19 And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"**
- 20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;**
- 21 but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."**
- 22 His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.**
- 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."**

- 18 Les Juifs ne crurent point qu'il eût été aveugle et qu'il eût recouvré la vue jusqu'à ce qu'ils eussent fait venir ses parents.**
- 19 Et ils les interrogèrent, disant: Est-ce là votre fils, que vous dites être né aveugle? Comment donc voit-il maintenant?**
- 20 Ses parents répondirent: Nous savons que c'est notre fils, et qu'il est né aveugle;**
- 21 mais comment il voit maintenant, ou qui lui a ouvert les yeux, c'est ce que nous ne savons. Interrogez-le lui-même, il a de l'âge, il parlera de ce qui le concerne.**
- 22 Ses parents dirent cela parce qu'ils craignaient les Juifs; car les Juifs étaient déjà convenus que, si quelqu'un reconnaissait Jésus pour le Christ, il serait exclu de la synagogue.**
- 23 C'est pourquoi ses parents dirent: Il a de l'âge, interrogez-le lui-même.**

- 24** So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.”
- 25** He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.”
- 26** Then they said to him again, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?”
- 27** He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?”
- 28** Then they reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples.
- 29** We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.”

- 24** Les pharisiens appelèrent une seconde fois l'homme qui avait été aveugle, et ils lui dirent: Donne gloire à Dieu; nous savons que cet homme est un pécheur.
- 25** Il répondit: S'il est un pécheur, je ne sais; je sais une chose, c'est que j'étais aveugle et que maintenant je vois.
- 26** Ils lui dirent: Que t'a-t-il fait? Comment t'a-t-il ouvert les yeux?
- 27** Il leur répondit: Je vous l'ai déjà dit, et vous n'avez pas écouté; pourquoi voulez-vous l'entendre encore? Voulez-vous aussi devenir ses disciples?
- 28** Ils l'injurièrent et dirent: C'est toi qui es son disciple; nous, nous sommes disciples de Moïse.
- 29** Nous savons que Dieu a parlé à Moïse; mais celui-ci, nous ne savons d'où il est.

**30 The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!**

**31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.**

**32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.**

**33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”**

**34 They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out.**

**35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”**

**30 Cet homme leur répondit: Il est étonnant que vous ne sachiez d'où il est; et cependant il m'a ouvert les yeux.**

**31 Nous savons que Dieu n'exauce point les pécheurs; mais, si quelqu'un l'honore et fait sa volonté, c'est celui là qu'il l'exauce.**

**32 Jamais on n'a entendu dire que quelqu'un ait ouvert les yeux d'un aveugle-né.**

**33 Si cet homme ne venait pas de Dieu, il ne pourrait rien faire.**

**34 Ils lui répondirent: Tu es né tout entier dans le péché, et tu nous enseignes! Et ils le chassèrent.**

**35 Jésus apprit qu'ils l'avaient chassé; et, l'ayant rencontré, il lui dit: Crois-tu au Fils de Dieu?**

**36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"**

**37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."**

**38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.**

**39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."**

**40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?"**

**41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.**

**36 Il répondit: Et qui est-il, Seigneur, afin que je croie en lui?**

**37 Tu l'as vu, lui dit Jésus, et celui qui te parle, c'est lui.**

**38 Et il dit: Je crois, Seigneur. Et il se prosterna devant lui.**

**39 Puis Jésus dit: Je suis venu dans ce monde pour un jugement, pour que ceux qui ne voient point voient, et que ceux qui voient deviennent aveugles.**

**40 Quelques pharisiens qui étaient avec lui, ayant entendu ces paroles, lui dirent: Nous aussi, sommes-nous aveugles?**

**41 Jésus leur répondit: Si vous étiez aveugles, vous n'auriez pas de péché. Mais maintenant vous dites: Nous voyons. C'est pour cela que votre péché subsiste.**

# Question

- Who is really blind in this story?
- Is it the blind man?

**What is  
blindness?**

- When I say I see  
**Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains (v. 41).**
- **When I think I am right**
- **When I think I know**
- **When I think I know the truth, and others don’t**
- **When I think others are sinners, and I am not as bad**

Who is  
blind in  
this story?

# How do we know?

- Through the response of each person to Jesus
- Every person in this story who comes into contact with Jesus, or with the result of Jesus' work (referred to in v. 3), has a certain kind of reaction
- Jesus draws from us a response, whether negative, sceptical, indifferent, or positive, we all must come to terms with Jesus and His works

# 1. The blind man

- Blind from birth, indicating his condition
- Not because of his sins, nor the sins of his parents
- Helpless
- Begging
- Receiving the ointment from the Lord
- Obeying the Lord's command

# 2. The Disciples

- Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind? (v. 2)
- Many times, we think that someone falls sick or something bad happens to someone because they did something wrong
- We think we must be pretty good if nothing bad happens to us

# 3. The Pharisees

- Not believing that Jesus was God because He did not keep the Sabbath
- Believing that Jesus was a sinner
- Not believing that the blind man had really been blind and had really received his sight
- Unable to receive the blind man's testimony

# 4. The Pharisees who were with Jesus

Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” (v. 40)

- These may have been the Pharisees who were with Jesus when Jesus found the formerly blind man
- Or they may have been Pharisees who were interested, or attracted by Jesus

# 5. The neighbours

**Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?”**

**Some said, “This is he.” Others said, “He is like him.” He said, “I am he.”**

- **Many times, I despise others who are spiritually weak or lacking**
- **I do not recognize the work of God in other people**
- **I may even wonder if someone is genuinely saved or really sincere in his belief**
- **Like the neighbours, instead of bringing a person to Jesus, I may bring them into religion or a form of worship without the living presence of Jesus**
- **This shows that I am really blind**

# 6. The parents

- The parents of the blind man knew how their son had been healed
- Yet they refused to acknowledge the fact that Jesus had healed Him
- A noticeable lack of excitement over the fact that their son had been healed!
- More worried that they would be thrown out of the synagogue for confessing that Jesus was the Christ
- Letting their son speak for himself and take all the heat

# 7. Me

- I may think I am pretty good
- I may think I am better than others
- I may think that I know the Bible better than others
- I may think that I am a better sinner than others
- I may do things for God, but without God, and without a revelation of Him
- Because I say I see, I am actually in darkness, spiritually blind, because I do not see myself, who I am
- Nor do I see God
- My sin remains, and I do not know that it is there

Why was the  
blind man born  
blind from  
birth?

- To reveal the works of God in him

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him (v. 3)

How does  
Jesus deal  
with our  
blindness?

# It is only when we are blind that Jesus can make us see

- When we truly cannot see, and acknowledge that we cannot see
- **And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind” (v. 39)**
- **Example of the apostle Paul:**  
**Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. (Acts 9:9)**

# Jesus passes by and sees us

- In our life, Jesus passes by again and again
- Even right now, He is passing by
- Every time we hear something about Jesus, or we read the Bible, Jesus is passing by
- In every Christian song we sing, Jesus is passing by
- And Jesus sees us, individually, one by one
- We matter to Jesus, each one of us
- Even if we do not see Jesus

Who is  
Jesus???

The light  
of the  
world

**How?**

# 1. Anointing our eyes with His word

- Every time we hear or read the word (the Bible), our eyes are anointed with the Lord's word
- His word is mingled with our humanity
- That means that the Lord's word is always related to us
- Each time I read the Bible, the Lord must speak to me and bring me into the light, to expose me and expose my condition

Why does Jesus  
not just speak  
the word to the  
blind man?

- The blind man did not get a chance to see Jesus
- He knew that it was Jesus who had put the clay on his eyes (v. 11)
- But he was not clear concerning who Jesus was
- Yet he was forced to immediately testify concerning his experience
- Often we think that we must have a thorough knowledge of the Bible and a thorough understanding of the Christian faith before we can testify for Christ, or pray to Him
- On the contrary, the Lord will deliberately leave us unclear and fuzzy concerning who He is, so we can testify simply what He has done for us
- Only when we testify for Him can He then reveal Himself further to us

## 2. Sending us to wash

- When the Lord speaks to me, I must respond to Him
- If I do not « wash » off the word that I have heard, that is, if I do not obey the Lord, I am even more blind
- It is not enough to hear the word, I must also respond to the word
- If I do not wash off what the Lord has anointed me with, what I have heard merely becomes knowledge, or a good teaching, or something that sounds logical and makes sense, but does not affect me
- When I respond to the word, the Lord can take me to the next step, to restore my sight

# How can we respond?

- Don't wait to have a clear understanding of who Jesus is
- Don't wait to have everything all figured out
- Don't wait to be fully convinced
- Rather, respond step by step to what you hear
- For example, after hearing this word, the Lord may be speaking to us to pray
- Don't think we have to pray a prayer that puts everything together to show that we have fully understood who Jesus is
- No, pray one sentence from your heart that responds to one thing that Jesus has spoken to you.

# How can we respond?

- Apologize. Saying I am sorry
- Probably the three hardest words to say
- Many times, we do not feel like apologizing. We still feel we are right, one hundred percent right
- The more we see how right we are, the more blind we become
- We hear the Lord's speaking to us to say sorry, the clay upon our blind eyes
- Yet we must wash off that clay.
- How?
- By going to the pool of Siloam, which means « sent »
- When the Lord speaks to us, He sends us to apologize
- Without our response, we are more blind than ever

### 3. Putting us in a situation where we must testify for Him

- 1) Admitting that I was in such a condition: « He said, I am the one » (v. 9)
- 2) Being sincere: « They said to him, Where is He? And he said, I do not know » (v. 11)
- 3) Not going beyond our experience. The blind man, when asked what he would say about Jesus, replied that He was a prophet (v. 17). Here, he did not know who Jesus was
- 4) Testifying to his experience
- 5) Not backing down; firm in what I have seen and experienced

# Appearing to us after we have testified for Jesus

- Jesus finds us, after we have testified for Him
- Sometimes, our testimony will cause us to be cast out
- Our testimony will also expose us further, to show us who we are, and how little we know the Lord
- At such times, we need to know who the Lord is
- Jesus appears so we can see Him and know Him as the Son of God, and believe in Him
- Our testifying for Him, even with our limited knowledge of Him, will cause Jesus to reveal Himself further to us, so we can believe into Him and worship Him
- The one who testifies receives the biggest help, perhaps even more than those who listen

# Restoring our sight

- The blind man was actually in the best possible position
- He knew he was blind
- He did not pretend to be able to see
- Everyone knew he was blind
- When Jesus healed him, he received his sight
- However, as he began to testify, he needed to be further recovered in his seeing
- He had to be led from hearing Jesus, from his concept of who Jesus was (e.g. a prophet), to seeing Jesus face to face, to believing into Him
- This shows that our testimony or speaking forth of Jesus exposes our blindness and gives the Lord an opportunity to further restore our sight
- The more we respond to the Lord by testimony and prayer, the more the Lord can heal our blindness so we can know Him more

<b>Blind man</b>	<b>Disciples</b>	<b>Pharisees</b>	<b>Neighbours</b>	<b>Parents</b>
Blind from birth; helpless; begging	Think blind man or parents have sinned	Religious leaders; those who had the key	Despising the blind beggar	Acknowledging that their son had been healed
Received Jesus' treatment; obeyed	Did not know Jesus' works	Unable to receive blind man's testimony	Unable to recognize the change in the blind man	Knowing it was Jesus, yet not confessing
Testified for Jesus; cast out	Witnessing Jesus' works	Believing Jesus was a sinner, not from God	Ignorant of Jesus' identity	Allowing their son to speak for himself and take the heat
Found by Jesus; knows who Jesus is; believes	Perhaps realizing that everything in this story was for their perfecting	Moses' disciple, not Jesus'	Erring in their religious desire to bring Jesus to Pharisees	Remaining in religion, but allowing their son to know Jesus Christ