

C H A P T E R

9

Read verses 1 through 34. This section records the healing of the eyes of a man born blind. In Mark the 8th chapter is recorded the healing of a blind man with the application of spittle, but this is the only recorded occasion when clay made with spittle was used to anoint the eyes. The time is uncertain. Whether it was immediately following the events of Chapter 8, we do not know.

Verses 1 through 3. While walking with His disciples, Jesus met a man born blind. How was it known he was "born blind?" Either he, himself announced it, or he might have been known to one of the party. A philosophical question often asked is, "Is all sickness the result of sin?" In general, the answer is yes. Sickness and death did not enter the Garden of Eden until sin came. But this seems to be a special case and how could a newborn babe have sinned? The lesson is that finding a cure for sin is more important than trying to find out who is to blame.

192. True or False? It is a common weakness of mankind that they place more importance on finding someone to blame than they do in finding the one who has the cure.

Verses 3 through 5. Jesus' answer to the disciples' question was that neither this man nor his parents had sinned. It happened so that God might get the glory for his healing. He must do the work He was sent to do while it was yet day. He was sent to bring "light" into the world, and He did this meeting the needs, both spiritual and physical, of the people He met.

193. Jesus brought _____ into the world by meeting the _____ of mankind.

Verses 6 and 7. Jesus often healed by a touch or just by speaking a word. Why in this healing did He make clay with His spittle and anoint the man's eyes with it and then tell the man to wash it off in a certain pool? A somewhat similar case was recorded in 2 Kings 20:7 in the healing of King Hezekiah. When God speaks, we had better obey; we do not need to understand. The blind man "went his way and washed and came seeing."

194. If we need a miracle of God, _____ is of first importance.

Verses 8 and 9. Some of the people who were acquainted with this man and knew that he had been born blind could not believe that he could see now. So they began to argue over the question. When they asked him, he said, "I am he."

195. The people who knew the man could not believe that he could _____.

Verses 10 through 12. When they asked how it was that his eyes were opened he replied, "A man they call Jesus made clay, placed it on my eyes, and told me to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. I did, and now, I can see."

196. True or False? The healed man failed to give credit for his healing to Jesus.

Verses 12 through 15. The young man was not able to tell them where Jesus had gone so they took him to the Pharisees, who again asked him how he was healed. They obviously hoped to catch him in some inconsistency in his story or find some new grounds for accusing Jesus. They finally seized on a technicality; he broke the law forbidding working on the Sabbath when he made clay with his spittle.

197. Pharisees questioned the young man, not because they were interested in how he was healed, but only in an attempt to find grounds for _____ Jesus.

Verse 16. Now even among the Pharisees there was a division, some saying He was not of God because He did not keep the Sabbath; though others said, "How could a sinner do a miracle like this?"

198. True or False? It now appeared that there was a division of opinion among the Pharisees about Jesus. The hard-hearted and unbelieving said, "He is a sinner," but others, seeing the miracle He has performed, said, "He must be a good man."

Verse 17. The Pharisees now asked for the opinion of the man who was healed. He replied, "He is a prophet."

199. The man born blind, now seeing, said that He was a _____.

Verses 18 through 23. The doubting Pharisees still did not believe that a miracle had been performed, so they called his parents and asked them many questions. "Is this your son that you say was born blind? If he was born blind, how is it that he now sees?" The parents replied that they knew he was their son and was born blind, but they did not know how it came about that now he could see. "He is of age, ask him." The parents answered in this way because they feared the Pharisees who had sworn that anyone who confessed that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the Synagogue.

(In O.T. times the Babylonians carried most of the Jews back to their homeland as captives. Naturally the Jews could no longer worship in the temple at Jerusalem. It was destroyed by the enemy anyway. So, the Jews built synagogues in which to pray, read the Scriptures, and listen to explanations of the law. The synagogue also became the school house for young boys. When the Jews were allowed to return to Israel, they also built synagogues there for worship between the feast days when they traveled to Jerusalem for temple worship. The synagogue school was continued. The Pharisees seemed to control the services and use of the synagogues. For them to expel anyone from the synagogue was to eject him from the community as it was based entirely upon religious law.)

200. The parents knew that a miracle had been performed and their blind son was made to see, but they would not admit it because they _____ the Pharisees.

Verses 24 and 25. The Pharisees would not give up and admit that a miracle had been performed so they again called the young man and said, "Give God the glory. We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "I know nothing about that, but this I do know, whereas I was blind, now I see."

201. The young man's answer to the Pharisees was that he knew nothing about the man's being a sinner, but the one thing he did know was that although he was formerly _____ now he could _____.

Verses 26 through 29. Undergoing continued questioning, the young man answered with scorn, "Is it that you wish to become one of His disciples that you ask all of these questions? Do you wish me to repeat what I have already told you?" Then they cursed him and said, "We are Moses' disciples and we know that God spoke through him. You are this man's disciple, and he is a nobody."

202. True or False? The Pharisees thought that one could not be a disciple of Moses and also a disciple of Jesus.

Verses 30 through 33. Now the man showed the kind of stuff he was made of. He was not in the least overawed or frightened by the Pharisees. "It is an unheard of thing," he said, "that one could open the eyes of a man born blind. And we know that God answers the prayers of the righteous, not sinners. If this man were not of God, He could do nothing. It is very strange that you do not understand where he came from." The questioning of the Pharisees had just the opposite effect to that desired by them. The questioning caused him to think deeply about all that had happened and to come to the decision that Jesus was all that He claimed to be.

203. True or False? Formerly the young man had said, "Whether he (Jesus) be a sinner or not, I do not know." Now he says, "If this man were not of God, He could do nothing."

Verse 34. The *LIVING NEW TESTAMENT* translated verse 34 thus, "You illegitimate bastard you," they shouted, "are you trying to teach us? And they threw him out." Commentators differ on whether he was thrown bodily out of the meeting place or excommunicated (barred from the synagogue) McGarvey is probably right when he cites the next verse for giving grounds for the view that he was excommunicated.

204. The unbelieving Jews were very angry and cursed this young man and _____ him from the Synagogue worship.

Verses 35 through 38. This incident came to a beautiful conclusion when Jesus sought out this man, questioned him, and received his confession of faith. And he said, "Lord, I believe, and he worshipped Him."

205. Jesus met this young man's needs, _____ when He healed his eyes, and _____, when he received the man's confession of faith.

Verses 39 through 41. Addressing the assembled crowd, Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world." This in no way contradicts the statement of John 3:17

that Jesus was not sent into the world to condemn the world. Judgment may result in either an innocent or a guilty verdict. Everyone who is confronted by Jesus, His life and His teaching, must come to a decision either for or against Him; either to believe or not to believe in Him. The physical healing of the blind man furnished the setting for the spiritual lesson Jesus wished to teach. He said, "I have come to the world to give sight to those who are spiritually blind, and to blind the eyes of those who, trusting in their own wisdom, say that they see." Some of the Pharisees got the point. "Are you saying that we are blind?" they said. Jesus replied, "If you were really blind, you would have no sin, but because in your conceit you say, 'we see,' your sin remains."

- 206.** True or False? Jesus taught that spiritual blindness was more serious than physical blindness. He demonstrated that He could cure both for those who, in humility, submitted their lives to Him; that is, if they believed, and were obedient to His word.

ANSWERS:

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|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 192. True | 200. Feared |
| 193. Light, needs | 201. Blind, see |
| 194. Obedience | 202. True |
| 195. See | 203. True |
| 196. False | 204. Excommunicated |
| 197. Accusing | 205. Physically, spiritually |
| 198. True | 206. True |
| 199. Prophet | |