

# THE HEALING OF A BLIND MAN

**BIBLE TEXT** : John 9:1-41; 10:19-21

LESSON 134 Junior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "He hath opened mine eyes" (John 9:30).

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

### **John 9:1-41**

<sup>1</sup> And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.

<sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

<sup>4</sup> I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

<sup>6</sup> When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

<sup>7</sup> And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

<sup>8</sup> The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

<sup>9</sup> Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: *but* he said, I am *he*.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

<sup>11</sup> He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.

<sup>12</sup> Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **NOTES:**

#### **For the Glory of God**

Jesus went about doing good. He never failed to help those who were in need. Jesus had left the Temple because the people did not like His teachings and they took up stones to throw at Him (**John 8:59** <sup>59</sup> Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by). As Jesus was walking through the crowd, He saw a man who needed help. The disciples with Jesus saw the blind man, too. Their hearts were not filled with compassion as was Jesus' heart. The disciples judged the man and thought that he was being punished for sin. They asked Jesus who had sinned, the man or his parents?

Many times the sins of the parents cause the children to suffer and to be denied good things. Even so, sin is not always the cause of sickness. There are some sinners who are seldom sick and some of God's people are sick many times. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). As was the blind man's case, the affliction may be for the glory of God. Job was severely afflicted with boils, yet sin was not the cause, for the Lord said that he was "a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God" (Job 2:3). When Jesus was told that Lazarus was sick He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby" (John 11:4).

#### **The Light of the World**

Jesus came to do the will of God and to finish the work that was planned for Him (**John 4:34** <sup>34</sup> Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work). When Jesus was only twelve years old He said that He must be about His Father's business (Luke 2:49). Later, when He went out to preach, Jesus said, "I must preach the kingdom of God ... for therefore am I sent" (Luke 4:43). Jesus gave us an example by His life as well as by His preaching. When He said, "I am the light of the world," (John 8:12) Jesus meant that He would instruct men in spiritual things — the way of life and the way to life. Jesus' life and His words are our Guide. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). Are you following the Guide?

#### **While It Is Day**

Jesus' time on earth was limited. He took advantage of every opportunity to do the Lord's work and to spread the Gospel. There comes a time in every person's life when God calls a halt to his work. Today is your time to work for the Lord. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2). The night comes when a man can no longer work. That time will come in your life. How are you using your day? "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

<sup>14</sup> And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

<sup>15</sup> Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

<sup>17</sup> They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

<sup>18</sup> But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

<sup>19</sup> And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

<sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

<sup>21</sup> But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

<sup>22</sup> These *words* spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

<sup>24</sup> Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

<sup>25</sup> He answered and said, Whether

(Matthew 5:16).

### Blindness

Jesus did more than talk; He proceeded to glorify God through His works. He could have said to the blind man, "Eyes be open"; and the eyes would have been opened. Jesus had a different way this time. He put clay on the eyes of the blind man. One would think to put mud over his eyes would blind rather than open his eyes. Jesus often does things in a different manner than we think He will. Jesus then instructed the blind man to go to the pool of Siloam to wash.

### Obedience

This lesson shows what can happen when a person is obedient to Jesus. There were many obstacles in the way of the blind man, but he obeyed. He did not question as to how he could get to the pool, nor where it was, nor why he should wash there. He obeyed Jesus and "came seeing." For the first time in his life he saw the light of day. The power of the Lord had given him sight. He did not see because of the clay, nor because of the water in the pool of Siloam, but because of obedience. This was the work of God. There are many blind people, there is much clay, and we are told that there still is the Pool of Siloam. So far as we know, no other person has received his sight in this manner. This was a miracle of Jesus.

### Spiritually Blind

There are many people who are blind to spiritual things. From their birth they never have seen the beauties of God, because their spiritual eyes are blinded. They are not blinded by an accident nor a disease: they are born blind. The natural condition of man is blindness to the spiritual. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Perhaps the blind man had tried other remedies and cures, with no success. The only hope is in Jesus. He came "to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins" (**Acts 26:18** <sup>18</sup> To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, *and from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. **Luke 4:17-21** <sup>17</sup> And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, <sup>19</sup> To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. <sup>20</sup> And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears). One may try other means to get spiritual sight but be without success. "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ... to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever" (Revelation 1:5, 6). Are your sins washed away by the Blood of Jesus? Have you let Jesus open your eyes to spiritual things?

**"At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,**

he be a sinner *or no*, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

<sup>26</sup> Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

<sup>27</sup> He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear *it* again? will ye also be his disciples?

<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

<sup>29</sup> We know that God spake unto Moses: *as for this fellow*, we know not from whence he is.

<sup>30</sup> The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.

<sup>31</sup> Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

<sup>32</sup> Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

<sup>33</sup> If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

<sup>34</sup> They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

<sup>36</sup> He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

<sup>37</sup> And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

<sup>38</sup> And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

<sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

**And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
And now I am happy all the day!"**

What a wonderful change takes place when one's spiritual eyes are opened! The change in a sinner saved by grace is just as real as the change that took place in the blind man. One sees God's creation and handiwork as never before. The world in which he lives is enlarged. He has vision, and a fuller life. The condemnation and shame of his past life are gone. He feels clean and strong through the power of Jesus' might. His experience is just as definite as that of the blind man. He, too, can say, "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25).

### Unbelief

The neighbors and Pharisees knew that the condition of the blind man was changed. In curiosity they asked how and where. Then, in the face of the facts, they did not believe but tried to deny the miracle. His parents were cautious lest they would be put out of the synagogue — their church. Jesus had relieved them of sadness, burden, and inconvenience caused by their son's blindness. Yet they were afraid and shifted their responsibility of giving credit to Jesus. Every person is either for Jesus or against Him (**Luke 11:23** <sup>23</sup> *He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth*). There is no neutral ground. "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words . . . of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father" (Mark 8:38).

### Belief and Worship

The healed man gave his testimony and confession of Jesus: "If this man were not of God, he could do nothing" (John 9:33). The people tried to change his mind and to persuade him that the healing had come some other way. The man knew that Jesus- had healed him, and would not give in to their arguments. The Pharisees would not listen to his testimony; instead, they put him out of their place of worship.

Jesus stands by His witnesses. He went to the man, revealed Himself as the Son of God, and the man worshiped Him saying, "Lord, I believe."

### Blessed or Condemned

This lesson shows how differently people treat Jesus. The man could not see Jesus. He realized his condition and was willing to let *Jesus take* away the darkness that he might have sight. He obeyed and was healed.

The Pharisees could see Jesus, yet they were blind to their own condition. They did not believe even after they had seen the miracle. No doubt they "loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Jesus condemned them and said that their sins remained. Many people, that day, refused to believe Jesus and were condemned. One man received a blessing because he believed. Like which of these people are you?

### QUESTIONS

1 How long had this man been blind?

<sup>40</sup> And *some* of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

### **John 10:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

<sup>20</sup> And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

<sup>21</sup> Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

2 How did he receive his sight?

3 What was his testimony?

4 How did his parents react to the miracle?

5 What did the Pharisees do to the man?

6 Why was he cast out of the synagogue?

7 What work did Jesus come to do?

8 Why were not the spiritual eyes of these other people opened?