

The Man Born Blind

based on John 9:1–38

Narrator: Jesus did good things wherever he went. Unfortunately, people didn't always like the way he did things or understand him. For instance, one day Jesus and his disciples met a man who had been born blind. The disciples couldn't understand how something as severe as blindness could happen to a good person.

Disciple: So what did he do to deserve being born blind? I mean, his parents must have sinned, right, and then God punished them by letting their baby be blind.

Narrator: Jesus responded right away.

Jesus: Your heavenly Father does not work that way. This blindness has nothing to do with sin. Sometimes it is through great difficulty that we discover God. This is an opportunity.

Narrator: Jesus spat on the ground and mixed his saliva with the dirt to make a muddy paste. Then he spread the mud on the man's eyes while everybody watched in shock.

Jesus: Brother, go wash that mud off in the pool over there.

Narrator: One of the disciples helped the man over to the pool, where he splashed water on his eyes to clean off the mud. He was surprised at what Jesus had just done to him. But when the mud was off, the man could see, just like that. Everyone turned to look when the man started whooping and hollering and dancing around. He ran up to people and grabbed them and looked into their faces, yelling, "I can see! I can see!" And people who were his neighbors and who knew his family tried to make sense of it.

Person #1: Isn't that the blind guy?

Person #2: Can't be. That guy isn't blind, but he does look like him.

Person #1: No, it's definitely him. What's going on?

Micah: It's really me. The teacher put mud on my eyes, told me to wash it off, and now I can see.

Narrator: This happened on the Sabbath, and the crowd took the man to their leaders at the synagogue and told the story. The leaders got upset.

Leader: What happened?

Micah: The teacher gave me my sight.

Leader: If he's healing on the Sabbath—which is against the law—then he's a sinner, not a miracle worker.

Micah: All I know is that I was blind before I met him, and I can certainly see now. He is a prophet.

Narrator: That made the leaders even more angry. They refused to believe that the man had been blind since birth. They called for his parents and began grilling them too.

Leader: Your son is telling quite a story. Was he ever truly blind?

Mother: Of course—he was born that way. We don't know what happened. But he can definitely see now. If you want to know the details, talk to him. He's a grown man and can speak for himself.

Narrator: The man's parents were on the defensive because they knew that Jesus was controversial, and they didn't want to be associated with him. If they disagreed with their leaders, they could be punished by being kicked out of the synagogue. So the leaders turned to the man again.

Leader: Remember that you speak with God as your witness. This man Jesus is a sinner, one who breaks our holy laws. Now tell us what really happened.

Micah: I don't know whether Jesus is a sinner or a holy man. I already told you what happened, but you refused to listen! All I can tell you is that today, for the first time in my life, I can see. And my sight came to me after Jesus spit in the dirt and put mud on my eyes. When I washed off the mud, I could see. You can figure out all the religious legal problems for yourselves. I know what I know. Now that you have seen what Jesus can do, perhaps you want to be one of his disciples too?

Narrator: His question made the leaders furious, and they threw him out of the synagogue. Jesus heard about it and went to talk with him privately.

Micah: Who are you? What is it that you have done to me that now I can see?

Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of Man, the one sent by God to save the world?

Micah: Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.

Jesus: I am the one God sent to help you and the whole world.

Micah: Sir, I believe you. I really do.

Narrator: The man knelt down and worshipped Jesus. †