



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

The Gospel of John Sermon Series  
Supports Session 11: You Have Seen Him  
Sermon Title: "I Once Was Blind" (John 9:1-41)

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### Connection to Session 11

Session 11 is about Jesus revealing the truth about who He is for those who would seek Him. In this sermon we will look at how the man born blind does not understand who Jesus is until Jesus reveals His identity to the man.

### Introduction/Opening

Sadly, we live in a world where parents are asked if they still want their babies who are screened for "genetic defects" before they are born. When we hear of stories like that, we should cringe at the horror of such an act. As believers, we know that all of life is sacred, and everyone is made "in the image of God" (Gen. 1:27). As we look at John 9, we see a man who was born blind. People were questioning whether this man sinned, or his parents did, causing him to be born blind. However, Jesus shows that this man's blindness would point people to "God's work" in his life.

### Outline

#### 1. Who Sinned? (9:1-5)

a) In verse 2 the disciples asked Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" They wrongly thought that either this man or his parents sinned, causing him to be born blind. Do we have a faulty view of hardship and suffering like the disciples?

b) Jesus responded to the disciples' question, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned . . . This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him" (vv. 3-4). Jesus's response shows us that God, in His mysterious and good wisdom, sometimes allows His children to go through hardship and suffering. This happens so they can experience God's mercy and deliverance. When we go through trials and hardships we should be looking to God for insight and purpose.

#### 2. Who Sees? (9:6-41)

a) Jesus healed the man born blind (v. 6). After Jesus heals the man, the man's neighbors realize he has been healed and they ask who opened his eyes. They want to find the man who healed him.

b) Eventually they take the man who was healed before the Pharisees, and they question how he was healed. Just like in John 5, there is controversy over Jesus healing on the Sabbath. The Pharisees question the man's parents as well.

c) The Pharisees continue to question the man and say that he must give God glory because a man who would heal on the Sabbath is a sinner. The man replies, "Whether or not he's a sinner, I don't know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see" (v. 25).

d) Even though this man was blind, he saw Jesus for who He is: the Son of Man. The religious leaders claimed to see, but, in the end, they were blind to seeing Jesus for Who He truly was. We must consider how we might be blind to God's work in our world and life.

## **Conclusion**

The hymn "Amazing Grace" includes the phrase, "I once was blind, but now I see." This line was based off John 9. All those who come to Christ can say: "We once were blind in our sin, blind to God's goodness, blind to see Jesus for Who He really is, but now we can see." The people in the city were amazed by this miracle, but are we amazed by the greatest miracle that God saves sinners?

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