



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Jesus the Creator & the Man Born Blind

Bible Reading: John 9:1-7; 35-41

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

SUMMARY: In John 9 Jesus encounters a man blind from birth. His disciples ask the age-old question—‘who sinned?’ Jesus transcends their simplistic view, seizing the opportunity for God’s work. This underscores a nuanced truth: while sin correlates with suffering, it lacks a consistent causal connection.

Jesus heals by unconventional means: forming a paste from clay and saliva to anoint his eyes, he instructs the man to wash in the pool of Siloam. He obeys in faith and returns seeing. This isn’t ancient folk-medicine, or mystical practice; rather, it shows Jesus shares the divine identity of the Creator. It’s not merely a restoration of sight; it’s a remarkable act of new creation—a foretaste of the coming kingdom when the blind will see, the lame leap, etc.

However, gaining physical sight is only the beginning. Under relentless questioning from skeptical Pharisees, the formerly-blind man gains spiritual insight regarding Jesus, culminating in recognizing him as the ‘Son of Man’ and offering his worship.

In stark contrast, the Pharisees, trapped in their disbelief, plummet into spiritual darkness. Their refusal to embrace the truth about Jesus blinds them further. Ironically, the sin of unbelief causes their spiritual blindness. This illustrates that possessing clear physical sight—20/20 vision—is insufficient. We all need enhanced spiritual insight into Jesus’ Person and Work.

I. Jesus’ View of Blindness/Sight, Sin & Sovereignty (9:1-5)

A. Disciples concerned with the Cause; Jesus sees an Opportunity

B. Blindness in the Ancient World

- Who Sinned? (9:3-4) Jesus denies a direct Sin-Suffering Link

C. Due to God’s Sovereignty? Textual & Moral Issues

- Textual Issues—Punctuation is Interpretation

- a. “Neither this man nor his parents sinned...; *This* [blindness came about] *so that* God’s works might be displayed in him.”

b. “Neither this man nor his parents sinned. *‘But so that* God’s work might be displayed in him, *we must do the work of him who sent me while it is still day.’*” (9:3-4a)

II. Jesus the *Logos*—Creator & Healer (9:5-7)

A. The Man’s first experience: Jesus as Healer.

B. The Healing’s Symbolic Process

C. Jesus’ Creative Act of Healing (9:6)

- Jesus heals “a man ‘blind from birth’...the story concerns *not a restoration but a new creation*”—M. T. Winstanley
- “*John portrays Jesus as standing firmly in the place of the Creator God, fashioning from the earth ‘new eyes’ for the man born blind, bringing his portion of the creation to its intended completion.*” —Sean McDonough

D. Jesus’ Command: “Go & Wash” & the Man’s Obedience of Faith (9:7a)

III. Jesus, the *Logos*, is the Creator

- “The signs of Jesus are miracles, *new acts of creation* in which the light shines forth unambiguously...”—John Painter

A. Jesus shares the Divine Identity with God the Creator

- John 9 “depicts *Jesus as the divine Creator-Logos who shares the same identity with the Father.*” —Riku Tuppurainen

B. Irenaeus’ Insights

- “That which the [Creator]...had omitted to form in the womb (viz., blind man’s eyes), He then ” — Irenaeus

IV. Progress vs. Regress: From Blindness to Sight & *vice versa*.

A. Progress: The (formerly) Blind Man gains Spiritual Insight (9:35-38)

B. Interrogations & Illumination

- “*The man progresses from blindness to sight while the Pharisees move in the opposite direction.*” —Dorothy Lee

C. Paradox & Reversal (9:38-39)

D. Pharisees’ Blindness *is* caused by Sin of Unbelief (9:39-41)

1. Jesus denies sin causes *physical* blindness (9:2), yet affirms that the sin of unbelief causes *spiritual* blindness (9:41)

2. Pharisees’ rejection of Jesus as the ‘Light of the World,’ causes spiritual blindness