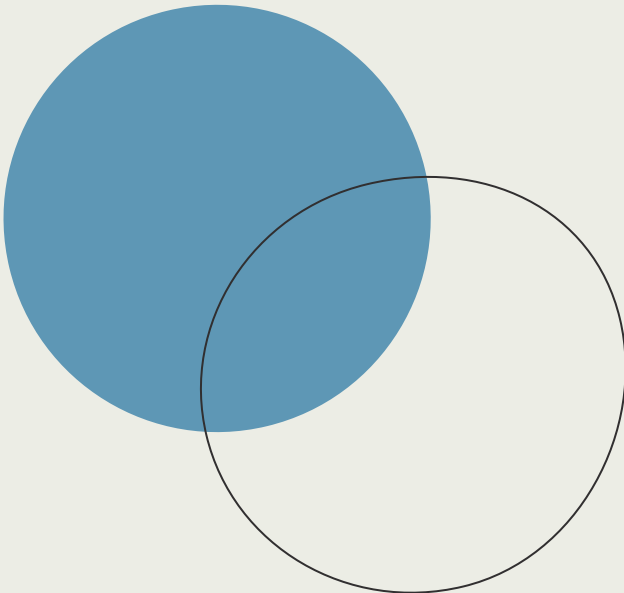


# The Word

*one to one*

**10** Publishing  
a division of **10**ofthose.com

# Episode 18



# Let there be light!

JOHN 9:1-41

---

*In the previous episode:  
Jesus points out a  
shocking family likeness.*

*In this episode:  
What does it mean for  
Jesus to be called the  
light of the world?*

<sup>1</sup> As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.

<sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'

<sup>3</sup> 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' said Jesus, 'but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.'

<sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

<sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'



## Seeing is believing

---

Like chapters 2 - 4, chapters 5 - 10 are organised around 'signs' (miracles) of Jesus.

Chapter 5 gave us the paralysed man healed on the Sabbath, followed by Jesus' discussion with His Jewish opponents. We're now coming towards the end of chapters 5 - 10 and we're about to see something very similar: an amazing healing on the Sabbath, followed by Jesus' explanation of what it means.

Why the Sabbath? The Sabbath remembered God enjoying His perfect world after creation - His rest. Being healed on the Sabbath, with your sins forgiven, was a picture of being made right with God, at rest with Him. Jesus is showing that He is the one who brings true Sabbath rest and a new creation.

---

As we go through this chapter, there are two very different spiritual responses to look out for as Jesus acts.

What question does the man's blindness raise?

- Jesus' disciples ask if the man's blindness was a result of his sin, or the sin of his parents. **(v. 2)**
- Jesus says neither. **(v. 3)**
- In fact, Jesus says that this man is about to see the work of God in his life.

<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.

<sup>7</sup> 'Go,' he told him, 'wash in the Pool of Siloam' (this word means 'Sent'). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.



What does Jesus' meeting with the man born blind lead to?

- The man's blindness is healed. With some spit, some mud and a quick wash, the man who has been blind all his life is able to see. **(v. 7)**
- Instantly, miraculously, Jesus brings light into this man's darkness.

<sup>8</sup> His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, 'Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?'

<sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was.

Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.'

But he himself insisted, 'I am the man.'

<sup>10</sup> 'How then were your eyes opened?' they asked.

<sup>11</sup> He replied, 'The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.'

<sup>12</sup> 'Where is this man?' they asked him.

'I don't know,' he said.



The miracle is so spectacular that some of the man's neighbours aren't even sure it's him. **(v. 8)**

He has to keep explaining that he is the same man! **(v. 9)**

How does the man explain what happened to him?

- He simply knows that it was Jesus who healed him. **(v. 11)**

Notice that at this point, he describes Jesus as just a man.

We're about to see there is more than one kind of blindness in this episode.

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

<sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. 'He put mud on my eyes,' the man replied, 'and I washed, and now I see.'

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.'

But others asked, 'How can a sinner perform such signs?' So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, 'What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.'

The man replied, 'He is a prophet.'

## Two responses

---

This is the start of two very different responses to Jesus' miracle.

How do the religious experts (Pharisees) respond?

- They immediately criticise Jesus because He did the miracle on the Sabbath. **(v. 16)**
- They're divided. Some condemn Jesus and say that He is not from God, but others are convinced He must be.

Remember that Jesus has already shown us that the Sabbath is all about ultimate rest, being at peace with God, not about the details of religious rules.

What does the man born blind think?

- Back in verse 11 Jesus was just *'the man they call Jesus'*. Now the once-blind man says that Jesus is a prophet. **(v. 17)**

<sup>18</sup> They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents.

<sup>19</sup> 'Is this your son?' they asked. 'Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?'

<sup>20</sup> 'We know he is our son,' the parents answered, 'and we know he was born blind.'

<sup>21</sup> But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.'

<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

<sup>23</sup> That was why his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

The Pharisees now put the man's mum and dad on trial. (v. 19)

How do the blind man's parents respond?

- They confirm that the man is their son and was blind all his life. There is no doubting the miracle. (v. 20)
- But they aren't going to say more because they are afraid of the religious leaders. (v. 22)

Being put out of the synagogue was a serious matter. It cut you off from your community and, according to the religious leaders, from God Himself.

*The Pharisees are not interested in this new evidence. They have already decided to reject Jesus as the Messiah.*

Not only that, but they are also going to make real trouble for anyone who follows Him.

<sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. ‘Give glory to God by telling the truth,’ they said. ‘We know this man is a sinner.’

<sup>25</sup> He replied, ‘Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!’

<sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’

<sup>27</sup> He answered, ‘I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?’

<sup>28</sup> Then they hurled insults at him and said, ‘You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses!’

<sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.’

The man is back in front of the religious leaders and the pressure is on. **(v. 24)**

How does the man respond?

- He won't be bullied. He speaks the truth: he was once blind but now he can see because of Jesus. **(v. 25)**
- The Pharisees will not accept his answer. They keep interrogating him. So he cheekily suggests that perhaps it's because they want to follow Jesus too! **(v. 27)**

The Pharisees' desperate attempt to enforce their authority means they utterly ignore the evidence and attack the man with insults. Hardly the godly behaviour of so-called religious leaders!