

THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

As Jesus was walking, He saw a blind man. Jesus spit on the ground and made some clay. He placed it on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in a nearby pool. The man did, and he was cured!

People brought the healed man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus healed him on the Sabbath, when their laws said it was not right to do work. The people did not believe that Jesus was from God. They didn't think Jesus could have cured the blind man!

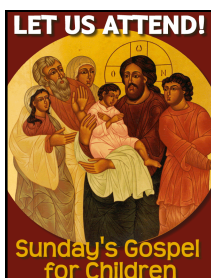
The man was surprised they didn't believe. He became a follower of Jesus.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Look at the icon. When did the story happen?
2. What did Jesus do to heal the blind man?
3. Why were the Pharisees upset with him for healing the man?
4. Why didn't the people believe that Jesus had cured the man?



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)



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One day, our Lord Jesus Christ saw a blind man. This man was blind ever since he was born. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples that He was the Light of the world. Then, he spit on the ground. He put the clay that the spit made onto the man's eyes. He told the man, "Go, and wash in the pool of Silo'am."

The man obeyed Jesus and was healed! He could see! The man's neighbors couldn't believe it was the same man. They argued with each other about it. Finally the man said, "I am the man who was blind. Jesus healed me and now I can see!"

The neighbors took the man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees were upset because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath day, the Jewish day to rest. They argued about whether or not Jesus was from God. They asked the man's parents if he had really been blind. The parents said, "Yes! He was always blind. We don't know how he can see now. Ask him—he is old enough to answer for himself."

Again, the Pharisees asked the man about Jesus. The man said, "All I know is, that though I was blind, now I can see. God listens to people who follow Him. If this Man was not from God, He could not have healed me."

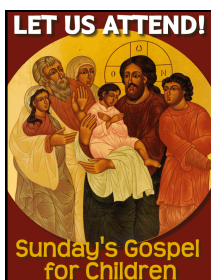
The Pharisees were angry when the man said this. They threw him out of the synagogue. Our Lord Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out. He found the man and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man? The man said, "Yes, I believe!" and he worshiped Jesus.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How long had the man in this story been blind?
2. What did Jesus put on the man's eyes?
3. What happened when the man obeyed Jesus and washed in the pool?
4. Lots of people in this story argue. Tell about one group and why they were arguing.
5. Did the man who had been blind believe that Jesus was from God? How do you know?
6. Did you ever hide someplace dark when you were playing hide and seek? Wasn't it wonderful to come back into the light again? Jesus, the Light of the world, helped the blind man "come back into the light" when He healed his sight.
7. When you confess your sins, Jesus, the Light of the world, forgives you and brings you back into the light again, too!



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They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight.

And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of

the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do



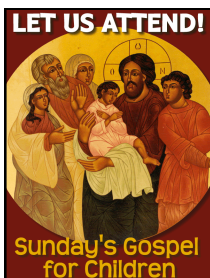
Image courtesy of freeimages.com

not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped Him.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How did Jesus heal the man born blind?
2. Who was upset with Jesus for healing the man? Why were they upset?
3. Did the Pharisees believe the man had been healed? Whom did they send for?
4. What do the man's parents say that the Pharisees should do? Why do they say that?
5. Does the man still stick up for Jesus when he's questioned the second time? How do you know?
6. What about you? Do people ever question you about your faith? How do you respond? Pray, ask for God's help to stick up for Him and the Church, no matter what!



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JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN

Characters: Narrator, Disciples, Jesus, Neighbors, Man, Pharisees, Parents

Narrator: At that time, as Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him,

Disciples: Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus: It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Narrator: As He said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him,

Jesus: Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am

Narrator: (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said,

Neighbors: Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?

Narrator: Some said,

Neighbors: It is he.

Narrator: Others said,

Neighbors: No, but he is like him.

Man: I am the man.

Neighbors: Then how were your eyes opened?

Man: The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Silo'am and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight.

Neighbors: Where is He?

Man: I do not know.

Narrator: They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight.

Man: He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see.

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees said,

Pharisees: This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath.

Narrator: But others said,

Pharisees: How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?

Narrator: There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man,

Pharisees: What do you say about Him, since he has opened

your eyes?

Man: He is a prophet.

Narrator: The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them,

Pharisees: Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?

Parents: We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.

Narrator: His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said,

Parents: He is of age, ask him.

Narrator: So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him,

Pharisees: Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.

Man: Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.

Pharisees: What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?

Man: I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?

Pharisees: You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from.

Man: Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.

Pharisees: You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?

Narrator: And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said,

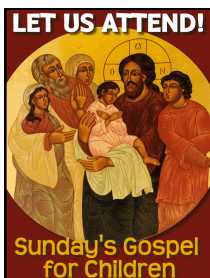
Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of man?

Man: And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?"

Jesus: You have seen him, and it is He who speaks to you.

Man: Lord, I believe,

Narrator: and he worshiped Him.



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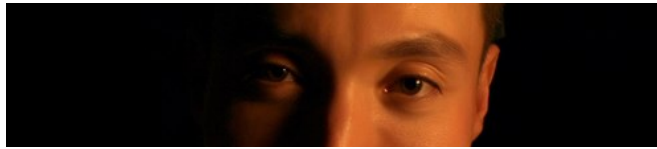


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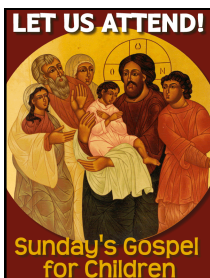
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why does Jesus say the man was born blind? What could that mean?
2. What does this suggest about why you were born the way you are?
3. What work must Jesus and his disciples do?
4. What does the word disciple mean? Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? If you are, what must you do?
5. As long as Jesus is in the world what is He?
6. On Pascha and at baptisms we sing: "As many as have been baptized into Christ have..." How do we finish that song?
7. Have you put on Christ? What does that mean?
8. Is Jesus in the world today? Is He alive? If we have put on Christ does that mean He is alive in us?
9. If we bring Jesus into the world today, what does that mean He is doing through us? (Look back at question 5.)



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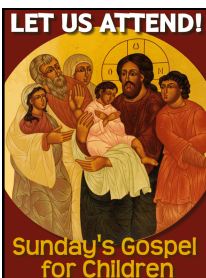
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What do the disciples ask Jesus when they see the blind man?
2. What assumptions does their question contain?
3. What does this suggest about why they think bad things happen to people?
4. What do you think of their ideas? What is helpful about their perspective? What does it fail to address?
5. Why does Jesus say the man was born blind? What could that mean?
6. What does his response suggest about why bad things happen to good people?
7. What is troubling about this response? What is satisfying or helpful about it?
8. Why do you think difficult things happen in our lives sometimes? What do you like about your solution? What parts of this problem are not solved by your solution?



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