

## A Reading in Six Voices — John 9:1-41 (NRSV)

Voice One: Narrator

Voice Two: Jesus

Voice Three: Man born blind

Voice Four: Pharisees

Voice Five: Parents of the man born blind

Voice Six: All other speakers

### I. 9:1-5: Jesus and the Disciples

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

### II. 9:6-7: Jesus and the Man Born Blind

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

### III. 9:8-12: The Man Born Blind and His Neighbors

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask: "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying: "It is he." Others were saying: "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying: "I am the man." But they kept asking him: "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered: "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me: 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him: "Where is he?" He said: "I do not know."

#### **IV. 9:13-17: The Man Born Blind and the Pharisees**

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them: "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said: "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said: "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man: "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said: "He is a prophet."

#### **V. 9:18-23: The Pharisees and the Parents of the Man Born Blind**

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 we do not know how it is that now he sees, 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 were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said: "He is of age; ask him."

## **VI. 9:24-34: The Pharisees and the Man Born Blind**

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him: "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered: "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do 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 also want to become his disciples?" Then 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: "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him: "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

## **VII. 9:35-38: Jesus and the Man Born Blind**

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered: "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him: "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said: "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

## **VIII. 9:39-41: Jesus and the Pharisees**

Jesus said: "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him: "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them: "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say: 'We see,' your sin remains."

## The Light of the World is Jesus!

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin,  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in;  
The Light of the world is Jesus!

[Refrain]

Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee;  
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me;  
Once I was blind, but now I can see:  
The Light of the world is Jesus!

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide;  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
We walk in the light when we follow our Guide!  
The Light of the world is Jesus! [refrain]

Ye dwellers in darkness with sin-blinded eyes,  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
Go, wash at His bidding, and light will arise;  
The Light of the world is Jesus! [refrain]

No need of the sunlight in Heaven we're told;  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
The Lamb is the Light in the city of gold,  
The Light of the world is Jesus!

Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8J98AoG57I>