

John 9:1–41

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In the 7th chapter of John, Jesus and His disciples went to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Tabernacles (verses 8–10). He began teaching in the temple in the middle of the Feast (verse 14).

Many Christians believe that some of the instructions that Jesus gave at the end of the Feast are found in John 8, 9 and 10.

This week, let’s notice John 9:1–41.

A revealing question

Most of John 9 deals with a situation surrounding a blind man.

At the beginning of the chapter, Jesus walks by a man who was blind from his birth (verse 1). The disciples asked Him (in verse 2): “Was this man born blind because he sinned, or was this man born blind because his parents sinned?”

From their point of view, the blindness had to be caused by somebody’s sin.

Jesus answered (in verse 3): “This man did not sin and his parents did not sin.”

Important answer

Then Jesus added (also in verse 3): “The works of God will be made manifest in him.”

It is true that many consequences are the direct result of sin. However, not all negative consequences come from disobedience.

With that in mind, notice 1 Peter 4:15–16.

1 Peter 4:15–16—“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil-doer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.”

Physical procedures

It is interesting to note that Jesus did some physical procedures as He was healing the individual.

John 9:6-7—"When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing."

We can see from the Scripture that sometimes healing is done without a person doing anything physical. But, as is the case here, sometimes physical procedures accompany a healing.

Afraid of the Pharisees

When the man's neighbors saw that this man could now see, they asked him how the miracle happened (verses 8-12). When the people heard that Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath, they took him to the Pharisees (verses 13-14).

When the Pharisees questioned the man, he repeated the story to them (verses 15-17). The Pharisees found the parents and confirmed that their son had been blind (verses 18-23). The parents answered carefully because they were afraid of the Pharisees (verse 22).

John 9:22—"His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue."

Cast him out

The Pharisees again questioned the man (verses 24-33). They did not want to give Jesus any credit for the miracle. Even though the man gave insightful answers, they cast him out.

John 9:34—"They answered and said to him, 'You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?' And they cast him out."

When Jesus heard that they had cast the man out, He comforted him (verses 35-39). Then, He corrected the Pharisees (verses 40-41).