

# MAN BORN BLIND

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Scripture: John 9

Hey, everybody. I'm Adam Flynt, one of the pastors here at Eleven22. Hope you are doing great. Whether you're driving or out for a run, working out, whatever it is, we're glad to have you on the podcast.

There is a true, correct, valid reason for how everything that happened in the Bible actually happened. Now, some of the how's we can understand and some of the how's we have no idea and can't understand. But there's actually a more important question that we need to be asking when we're reading the Bible than just, "Well, how did that happen?"

So in John 9, John records this episode and here's how he starts.

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6a</sup> Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed...

John 9:1-6a

Now, I've heard people use the term anointed for a bunch of things. But making mud out of spit, I've never heard it.

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<sup>6b</sup>Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup> and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. John 9:6b-7

Now, as the story gets set up, Jesus tells us the reason why the man is blind. They ask Him, right? And they assume he's done something, or his parents have done something. And Jesus says, "Listen, it's not his fault. It's not his parents' fault. It's God. God caused this man to be born blind, that God might display His works in this man."

That causes a serious amount of tension in us, doesn't it? So often in my life, I am so concerned about my comfort. But God's concerned about something that's a whole lot greater than my comfort. He's really mostly concerned with His glory and nothing is greater than the glory of God.

And if there was something that was greater than the glory of God, well then, God would just be most concerned about that and what God is most concerned about becomes the most important thing. And so, whatever God is most concerned about, that's the glory of God. And the glory of God is the greatest thing for God to be concerned with. More than my comfort, more than all my understanding, more than all my how's. God is concerned with His glory, because it is the greatest thing there is.

<sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup> So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud

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and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

John 9:8-12

And so, these neighbors, his friends, his community, his family, people that are closest to him come to him and they ask, "How did the healing happen? How is this thing possible?" And his answer, "The man Jesus." They're asking how, and he's replying with who.

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and 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 said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

John 9:13-17

So his neighbors ask how and he replies who. And now the Pharisees, the religious leaders, ask how. How can a blind man get his sight? How did this miracle happen? And his answer? He is a prophet. They're asking how and he wants to answer the question, who.

<sup>18</sup> 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 <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is

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this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> 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." <sup>22</sup> (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27a</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. John 9:18-27a

So first the neighbors ask how and then the religious leaders ask how and now the religious followers start asking how. And his answer is, "I don't know how, but I do know that I was blind and now I see. I know who did this for me. I might not even know a lot about what He is or what He stands for, or all of that. But what I do know is, He healed me." They ask how and he answers with a who. And then in verse 27 he finishes by saying this to them.

<sup>27b</sup> "Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"  
John 9:27b

I love this. I love how he takes the confrontation and turns it into an invitation. Despite not having all the facts, or knowing all the explanation, or having all the information, he's inviting them.

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Now, it may be a little tongue in cheek, there may be sarcasm that's all down in there, whatever. But the fact of the matter is, he's inviting them. He's inviting them to put their faith in who, more than how. And so, they're going to start to argue with him in a minute.

But for just a second, the question that I want to ask is, is there somebody that you're in the middle of a confrontation with that you need to turn that from confrontation to an invitation to Jesus? Could they be trying to ask questions, or this confrontation could be around events, or how's, or what's and you could turn that and point them to a who. That you could point them to Jesus.

<sup>34b</sup> And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him...

John 9:34b-35a

I love that, that Jesus finds him.

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

John 9:37-38

So my question for you is, do you believe in the Son of Man, Jesus? Is your trust in your understanding of how God can do what He does, or is your trust in who Jesus is? Do you believe Jesus is who He said He is, God in the flesh, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer and will you believe in Jesus? Will you worship Jesus? Will you glorify Jesus? And when the enemy whispers that your faith is invalid because you don't

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know all the answers to the how's, you answer with, "Yeah, but I know who and He knows me." Will you put your trust in Jesus, who is the answer to the who?