John 9

Jesus gives sight and life to a man who was physically and spiritually blind from birth. Jesus is the Light of the World!

Eight Conversations in John 9

Jesus and His Disciples : 1-5

Jesus and the Blind Man : 6-7

The (formerly) blind man and neighbors : 8-12

The (formerly) blind man and Pharisees : 13-17

The Pharisees and the parents : 18-23

The (formerly) blind man and Pharisees II : 24-34

Jesus and the (formerly) blind man : 35-38

Jesus and the Pharisees : 39-41
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6. The (formerly) blind man and Pharisees II :24-34
7. Jesus and the (formerly) blind man :35-38
8. Jesus and the Pharisees :39-41
John 9  How to view a blind man, or

How to view a beggar in need---

Disciples—a subject for theological analysis

Neighbors—a beggar, a “client” for social welfare

Pharisees—a tool to advance their agenda

The Lord Jesus Christ—a person created in the image of God, in need of sight:

both physical and spiritual

“I am the Light of the world.” John 8:12, 9:5

Cf. Mt. 5:14
“I am”--------stated 3 ways

9:5---

9:5---

8:12---

8:58---

But cf. 9:9
Comparing two healings: John 5 and John 9, the lame man and the blind man

--Both men are nameless
--Both men are consigned to begging
--Both have known suffering most of their lives
--Jesus initiated the encounter in both instances
--Both men are healed apart from faith
--Both healings occur on a Sabbath day
--Both men look to a pool for healing
--Both men suffer at the hands of the religious
--Both men are unsure where Jesus has disappeared to, and Who He is
--Both men meet Jesus again
--Both men are given the opportunity to address deeper issues

See Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel, by Alan Culpepper, and
Under an Open Heaven, by John E. Johnson
Does v. 3 suggest a harshness in God?

(Suggested solution):

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned. But that the works of God should be revealed in him, I must work the works of Him Who sent Me while it is day . . .”

“Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, Why have you made me like this?”

Rom. 9:20

Cf. Ex. 4:11; Isa. 45:6-7
Conversation 3: Formerly blind & Neighbors :8-12

Conversation 4: Formerly blind & Pharisees :13-17

v. 14 “Now it was a Sabbath . . .”

Cf. 5:18: why the Jews pursued killing Jesus--

1. Broke the sabbath
2. Made Himself equal with God

Three views of Jesus’ identity:

1. Not from God--------broke sabbath
2. Not a sinner------or, how could he do miracles
3. A prophet

Conversation 5: Pharisees and parents :18-23

Intimidation

vv. 22-23 carefully stated (rehearsed?)

Conversation 6: Formerly blind & Pharisees II :24-34

Summoned him again

v. 29—do not know where He is from

v. 33---from God

They “cast him out.”
Conversation characteristic of the unconverted, as illustrated in conversations 3 to 6 in John 9:

**Sarcasm**

- ridicule

**Abuse**

- belittling

**Name-calling**

**Suspicion**

**Hate**

**Vituperation**

**Deception**

**Confusion**

**Doubt**

Note the speech of Christians in Eph. 4:29ff:

What a contrast! Does your (my) speech reflect the changes Christ has made in our lives?
Four conversations of Jesus in John 9

With followers
9:1-5
Theological Correction

With blind man
9:6-7
Physical Sight

With formerly blind man
9:35-38
Spiritual Sight (life)

With opposers
9:39-41
Theological condemnation