



BORN BLIND

BIBLE STUDY ON JOHN 9:1-41

BY MARY WELSH

BIBLE STUDY AND PUZZLES

JOHN 9:1-41



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JOHN 9:1-41

1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 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.

7 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.

8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

9 Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

12 Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his



sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

19 And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

21 but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

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.

23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

25 He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

26 Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

29 The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!

31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does His will, He hears him.

32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

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

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshipped Him.

39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."



40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?"

41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains."



The prophet Isaiah foretold that Messiah would bring sight to the blind:

Isaiah 29:18: "In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness."

Isaiah 35:5: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped."

Isaiah 42:7: "To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house."

Opening the eyes of the blind was a specific work of the Messiah.

BORN BLIND

I love the passage in John 9:1-41 where Jesus heals a man blind from birth. The very first verse of chapter 9 melts me: "Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth." Hundreds of people passing by on their way into the temple ignored, avoided, and walked around him, *but Jesus saw him*, and was moved with compassion by his circumstance.

In Greek, the phrase is "parago," which means "passed by." John chapter 8 ends with Jesus passing by those who want to stone Him. Chapter 9 opens with Him passing by the man born blind. He has passed by *two different types of blindness* - physical and spiritual.

I try to imagine what the man was thinking; surely, he was tired of begging?

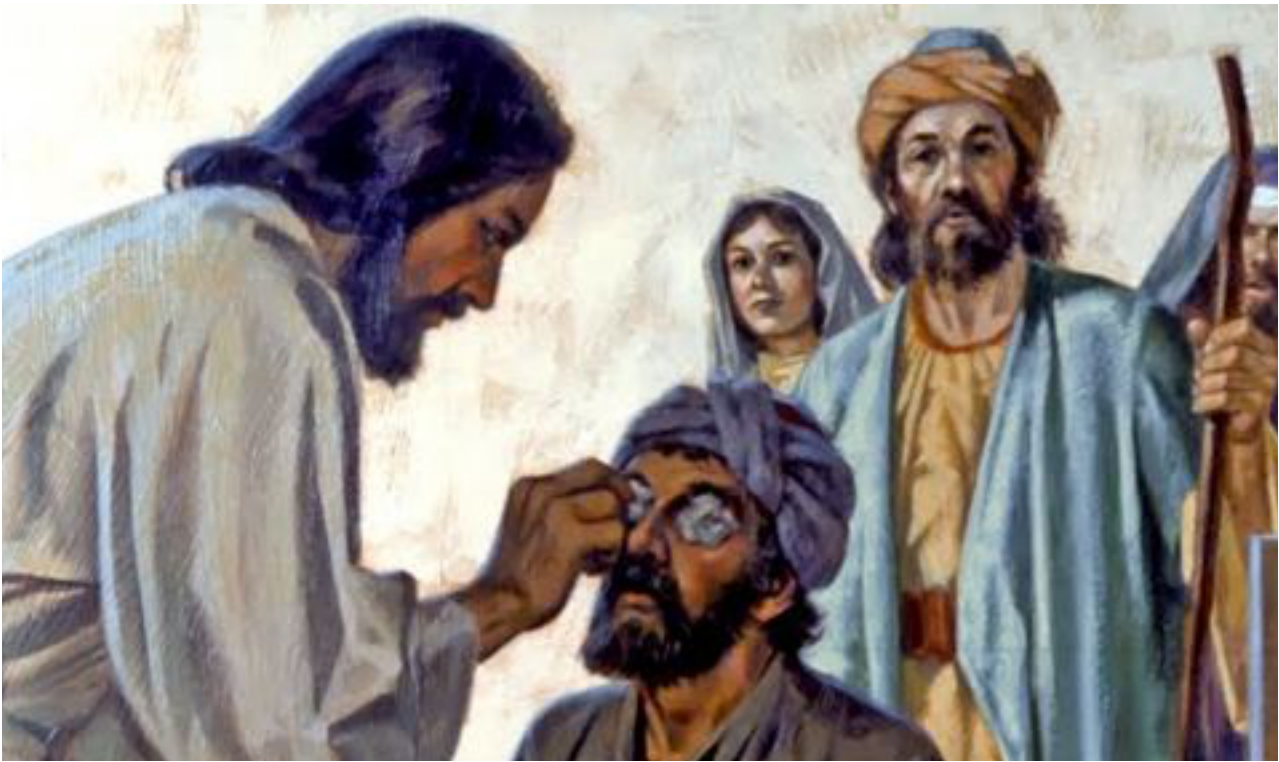
He had been here a long time. Not a shekel, not even a mite had landed at his feet. Last month he had been given a denarius, but today, nothing. He wondered if any of the people passing by ever noticed him. They were on their way into the temple, to pray and to offer sacrifices, not to help beggars who sat at the temple doorstep.

What's that? He's alert as he hears men talking near him. Strange, but it sounds like they are asking questions about him, about who sinned; did he sin or his parents?

At that time, the thinking was that suffering was due to sin; therefore, any disaster or catastrophe which befell a person must have been caused by their own sinful actions. It was believed possible that a person could sin in the womb, before birth.

He listens closely, as he is sure now they are discussing him. It's difficult, with the noise of the crowds, but he hears the one man say he had not sinned! What relief! What happiness to know that someone believed this was not his own doing! Now what? He hears someone spit. One of them is spitting at him? It's happened before. He thinks the spittle misses him, as he felt nothing. He hears the name, "Rabbi," but wait - now he feels someone touching his eyes...with...is it mud? And he's saying to go to the Pool of Siloam and wash!





THE POOL OF SILOAM

Built by King Hezekiah, the Pool of Siloam allowed water to come from the Gihon Spring, which was located outside of the city wall, through a conduit which passed under the wall and flowed into the Pool of Siloam. This allowed the people to have water even during times when they were under siege from the Assyrians.

The word "Siloam" means "sent." Jesus is referred to as the "Sent One," and, being "sent" from God. In the passage from John 9, we see the blind man being **sent** by the **Sent One** to the pool called **sent**.

Scripture tells of Jesus being sent by God the Father:

John 8:42: "Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He *sent* Me."

John 20:21 "So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has *sent* Me, I also *send* you.'"



The story of the blind man is really our story too; isn't it?

We're outside of the temple, beggarly in our understanding of God, blind to His love and mercy towards us, then *Jesus sees us, reaches out to us, saves us*. He begins a work of creation within our hearts, washing us and cleansing us from all unrighteousness, forming us into new creations who can be used for His glorious purposes. Jesus opens the eyes of our understanding to behold His glory and to know Him.



MUD AND CLAY

Mud wouldn't have been very pleasant to feel in a person's eyes, but it certainly would have motivated the man to get up and go to the Pool of Siloam to wash. God may use things which irritate us to get us to move towards His purposes.

The mud may have been offensive to some people, just as the gospel today offends some; it offends man's pride and human wisdom.

God used the dust of the ground to do a work of creation in Genesis. Jesus does a work of creation with mud and the blind man's eyes.

Many scriptures refer to clay in reference to the weakness and frailty of man:

Job 10:9 - "Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay."

Isaiah 64:8 - "But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand."

Jeremiah 18:6 - "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"

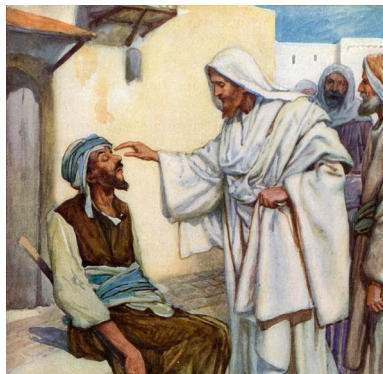
2 Corinthians 4:7 - "But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."





The blind man's growing awareness of who Jesus is can be seen verse by verse:

1. First he says He is a man called Jesus (John 9:11)
2. Then the man says Jesus is a prophet (John 9:17)
3. Next he says Jesus is a man from God (John 9:33)
4. Lastly, he recognizes Jesus is the Son of God, and worthy of worship (John 9:38)



FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

LESSONS FROM THE BLIND MAN IN JOHN 9



Jesus comes to us:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." (Rev. 3:20)

The blind man **heard** Jesus.

"So he went and washed, and came back seeing." (John 9:7)

The blind man **obeyed** Jesus.

"Then he said, 'Lord, I believe!'" (John 9:38)

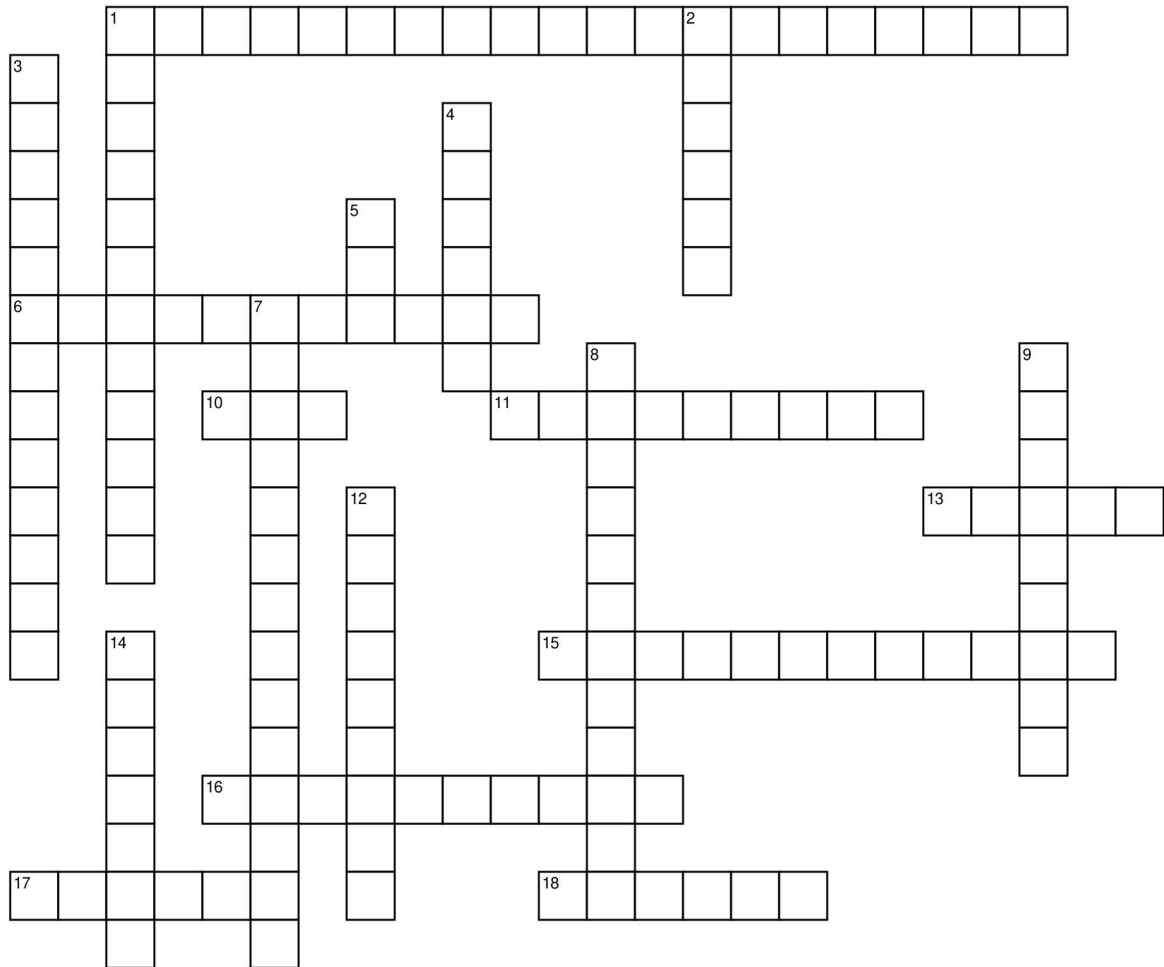
The blind man **believed** Jesus.

"And he worshiped Him." (John 9:38)

The blind man **worshiped** Jesus.

May God help us to hear, obey, believe, and worship Him, so that we may say with the blind man, "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see"!

BORN BLIND



From "The Bible Puzzle Book - A to Z Edition" by Mary Welsh

ACROSS

- 1 The one God listens to (5 wds)
- 6 What the Pharisees did to the man who was healed (2 wds)
- 10 "I was blind but now I ____"
- 11 What the disciples wanted to know (2 wds)
- 13 The man was blind from ____
- 15 What the healed man told the Pharisees (4 wds)
- 16 After washing (3 wds)
- 17 Anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah was ____ of the synagogue (2 wds)
- 18 Previous occupation of the blind man

DOWN

- 1 Where the man went to wash (3 wds)
- 2 This word means "sent"
- 3 "____, when no one can work" (3 wds)
- 4 The parents were ____ of the Jewish leaders
- 5 Jesus put it on the man's eyes
- 7 They were sent for (3 wds)
- 8 What the healed man told Jesus (3 wds)
- 9 The man told them what happened
- 12 They asked if it was the same man
- 14 Day the healing took place

BORN BLIND

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

H T F M M I H D E T L U S N I T M G M F
 L L I W S I H S E O D O H W N O S R E P
 T N I G H T I S C O M I N G Y J J L C P
 K M B K K Z F M P T T B L H P R L M Q O
 K B K O Q E A C N H R L E C N Q X Q Y O
 W P T M R O V G M Z A I T R W R P W G L
 B H L N L N R E T M S R T M M C N L L O
 F G O I T A B M I A H V I X Y L V H D F
 G K S S G H R L P L S T N S Q Z H E R S
 L Q M G I W F R I R E Q A M E C K C L I
 G K E R M N O N O N B B M B T E P O L L
 K B K R N P N B K Q D H I M B V S U M O
 L V R J H T H E B I R T H D Y A Z L Z A
 L C P E H G M C D W P T Y D R C S D Y M
 N D T N I G N L P U T K M W J O M S L L
 V I G E B K D L T P R M J V T M L E B K
 C A N F Q M N O D G M D Y X N W N E T P
 R R E F W L U P U B N R X K F K M X L B
 N F E C Y T Y D M B V M R P M G L V L R
 R A S C R T H E M A N ' S P A R E N T S

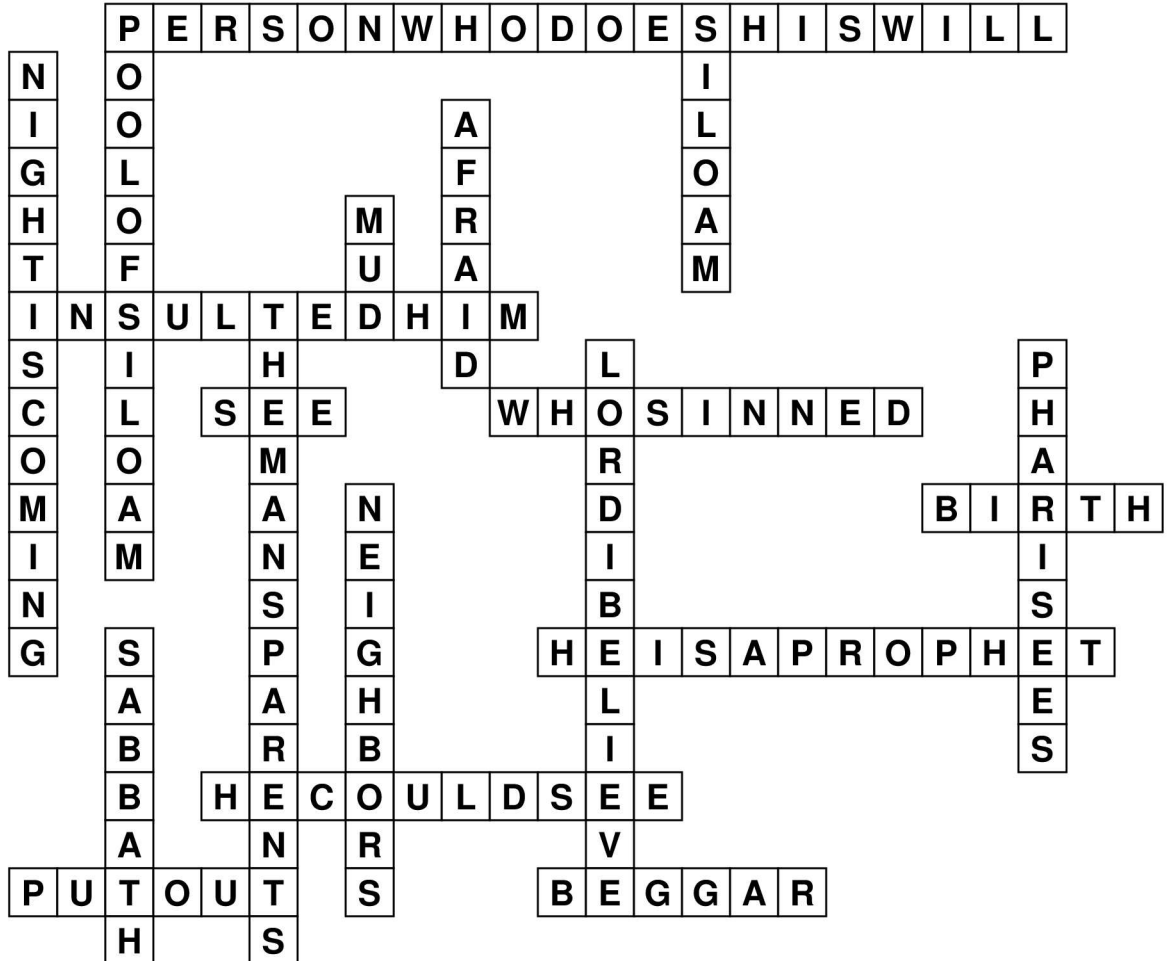
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AFRAID
 BEGGAR
 BIRTH
 BORN BLIND
 HE COULD SEE
 HE IS A PROPHET
 INSULTED HIM
 LORD I BELIEVE
 MUD
 NEIGHBORS

NIGHT IS COMING
 PERSON WHO DOES HIS WILL
 PHARISEES
 POOL OF SILOAM
 PUT OUT
 SABBATH
 SEE
 SILOAM
 THE MAN'S PARENTS
 WHO SINNED

BORN BLIND

Solution:



BORN BLIND

H T F M M I H D E T L U S N I T M G M F
 L L I W S I H S E O D O H W N O S R E P
 T N I G H T I S C O M I N G Y J J L C P
 K M B K K Z F M P T T B L H P R L M Q O
 K B K O Q E A C N H R L E C N Q X Q Y O
 W P T M R O V G M Z A I T R W R P W G L
 B H L N L N R E T M S R T M M C N L L O
 F G O I T A B M I A H V I X Y L V H D F
 G K S S G H R L P L S T N S Q Z H E R S
 L Q M G I W F R I R E Q A M E C K C L I
 G K E R M N O N O N B B M B T E P O L L
 K B K R N P N B K Q D H I M B V S U M O
 L V R J H T H E B I R T H D Y A Z L Z A
 L C P E H G M C D W P T Y D R C S D Y M
 N D T N I G N L P U T K M W J O M S L L
 V I G E B K D L T P R M J V T M L E B K
 C A N F Q M N O D G M D Y X N W N E T P
 R R E F W L U P U B N R X K F K M X L B
 N F E C Y T Y D M B V M R P M G L V L R
 R A S C R T H E M A N ' S P A R E N T S

WORD SCRAMBLE SOLUTION

"I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE."

ABBESS ABBOTS ABIDES ABOUND ATONED
BAILED BASSET BEADLE BELIED BESTED
BLADES BLENDS BLONDE BLOUSE BOILED
BONNET BOWLED BUSTED DIESEL DOUSED
ENABLE ENLIST LINENS NAILED OBTUSE
SILENT SNOWED SONNET STABLE STOLEN
STONED STEWED STOWED TALONS TONSIL
WABBLE WAILED WIBBLE WISEST WOBBLE



IMAGE INDEX

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I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE!