

② A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO JOHN

③ Please be seated

**Narrator:**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been ~~born~~ blind from birth.

**Crowd::**

" Rabbi, was it his sin or his parents' that caused him to be born blind?

**Jesus:**

"Neither. It was no sin, either of this man or of his parents.  
Rather it was to let God's works show forth in him.  
We must do the deeds of him, who sent me while it is day.  
The night comes on when no one can work. While I am in the world,  
I am the light of the world."

**Narrator:**

With that Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva, and smeared the man's eyes with the mud. Then he told him, " Go wash in the pool of Siloam."  
(This name means "One who was sent.") So the man went off and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and the people who had been accustomed to see him begging began to ask,

**Crowd:**

"Isn't this the fellow who used to sit and beg?"

**Narrator:**

Some were claiming it was he; others maintained it was not but someone who looked like him. The man himself said:

**Blind Man:**

"I'm the one all right."

**Crowd::**

How were your eyes opened?"

**Blind Man:**

"That man they call Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes, telling me to go to Siloam and wash. When I did go and wash, I was able to see."

**Crowd::**

"Where is he?"

**Blind Man:**

"I have no idea."

**Narrator:**

Next they took the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. (Note it was on the sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened his eyes.) The Pharisees, in turn, began to inquire how he had recovered his sight. He told them:

**Blind Man:**

"He put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see."

**Pharisees:**

"This man cannot be from God because he does not keep the sabbath."

**Crowd:**

"If a <sup>someone</sup> ~~man~~ is a sinner, how can he perform signs like these?"

**Narrator:**

They were sharply divided over him. Then they addressed the blind man again:

**Pharisees:**

"Since it was your eyes he opened, what do you have to say about him?"

**Blind Man:**

"He is a prophet."

**Narrator:**

The Jews refused to believe that he had really been born blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents of this man who now could see.

**Pharisees:**

"Is this your son? If so, do you attest that he was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that he now can see?"

**Parents:**

"We know this is our son, and we know he was blind at birth. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we have no idea. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself."

**Narrator:**

(His parents answered in this fashion because they were afraid of the Jews, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said: He is of age - ask him.)

A second time they summoned the man who had been born blind and said to him:

**Pharisees:**

"Give glory to God! First of all, we know this man is a sinner."

**Blind Man:**

"I would not know whether he is a sinner or not. I know this much: I was blind before; now I see."

**Pharisees:**

"Just what did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

**Blind Man:**

"I told you once, but you would not listen to me. Why do you want to hear it all over again? Do not tell me you want to become his disciples too?"

**Pharisees:**

"You are the one who is that man's disciple. We are disciples of Moses, but we have no idea where this man comes from."

**Blind Man:**

"Well, this is news! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners, but that if someone is devout and obeys his will he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person ~~born~~ blind from birth. If this man were not from God, he could never have done such a thing."

**Pharisees:**

"What! You are steeped in sin from your birth, and you are giving us lectures?"

**Narrator:**

With that they threw him out bodily.  
When Jesus heard of his expulsion, he sought him out and asked him:

**Jesus:**

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

**Blind Man:**

"Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

**Jesus:**

"He is speaking to you now."

**Blind Man:**

"I do believe, Lord."

**Narrator:**

And he bowed down to worship him. Jesus said:

**Jesus:**

"I came into this world to divide it,  
to make the sightless see  
and the seeing blind."

**Narrator:**

Some of the Pharisees around him picked this up saying:

**Pharisees:**

"You are not counting us in with the blind, are you?"

**Jesus:**

"If you were blind  
there would be no sin in that.  
'But we see,' you say,  
and your sin remains."

**Narrator:**

The Gospel of the Lord.