

SEVEN SIGNS
#7: Lord of Light
May 27-30, 2006

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” ¹⁰“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. ¹¹He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” ¹²“Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said. ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. ¹⁷Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹“Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” ²⁰“We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God and tell the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

John 9:1-25 TNIV

Introduction: The sixth sign in John’s Book of Signs that Jesus is Lord

is symbolically significant, imparting meaning far beyond the actual healing miracle. When Jesus healed the beggar blind from birth, he proclaimed himself “the light of the world” and Lord of light and truth.

- I. The Encounter
 - A. According to John 8, Jesus was leaving the temple, so he probably passed by the blind man at a beggar’s gate.
 - B. Since the man was known to be blind from birth, he would have been excluded from the temple for life.
 - C. For the disciples, the man’s presence was an opportunity for objective theological speculation; for Jesus, his presence was an opportunity for subjective personal compassion.
- II. The Question
 - A. The disciples considered two traditional possibilities:
 1. Was this man blind because of his own sin? *or*
 2. Was this man blind because of his ancestors’ sins?
 - B. Jesus refused to acknowledge either possibility, choosing instead to see an opportunity for God’s might to be shown.
 1. The disciples saw cause, but Jesus saw results.
 2. The disciples saw blame, but Jesus saw change.
 3. The disciples reacted, but Jesus responded in love.
- III. The Sign
 - A. Jesus’ spittle, the medicine of divine healing, came wholly from within himself.
 - B. The dirt of the ground was given life, as in the first creation.
 - C. That the man should wash in the pool called “sent” was a test of faith, the participation of the healed in the healing.
 - D. We are told simply that the man “came home seeing.”
- IV. The Testimony
 - A. The formerly blind man, when asked to explain his healing, simply told the story.
 - B. The formerly blind man repeated again and again the most basic testimonial refrain: “I was blind but now I see.”
 - C. Unable to argue with the man’s testimony, the religious leaders—reacting and seeking cause and blame—insulted the man and cast him out. (See vs. 26-34)

Conclusion: In explaining the sixth sign, Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” (v. 39) Those wise in their own eyes have neither eyes to see nor ears to hear the clear signs that Jesus is Lord. But for those willing to be healed, a vision of eternal truth is available through Jesus Christ, the Lord of light.