



**I Was Blind,  
Now I See.**

**John 9**

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**John 1:4**

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**John 1:5**

**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**

**John 8:12**

- John 8:12: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”



- Who sinned?

# Born Blind



- Disciples make assumption, still common, that suffering is result of sin.
- Job's friends made this assumption when Job lost his 7 children, wealth, and health; urged him to repent.

**Born  
Blind**  
**This man  
or  
his parents  
?**



- They can see only one reason that a man would be born blind.
  - Assume that God would not allow this to happen to someone who is innocent.
  - Therefore was his blindness a result of his parents' sin?
  - Or his own sin?

**Born  
Blind**  
**This man  
or  
his parents  
?**



- This was not a “dumb” question...
  - Sometimes suffering **IS** a result of sin
  - Deuteronomy 28:15: “But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.”



# Born Blind

This man  
or  
his parents  
?



- Deuteronomy 28:18: **Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb** and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.
- Exodus 20:5: You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,**
- When necessary, God uses such suffering to make us realize that we have forsaken Him and that we need to turn back to Him.
- But, not all suffering is a result of sin
  - Luke 13:2-5: And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”
  - 2 Corinthians 12:7: So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.
  - Jesus, without sin, suffered in life and in death.
- Sin is individual; consequences may extend to others
  - Ezekiel 18:20: The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.
  - James 1:14-15: But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

**Born  
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**This man  
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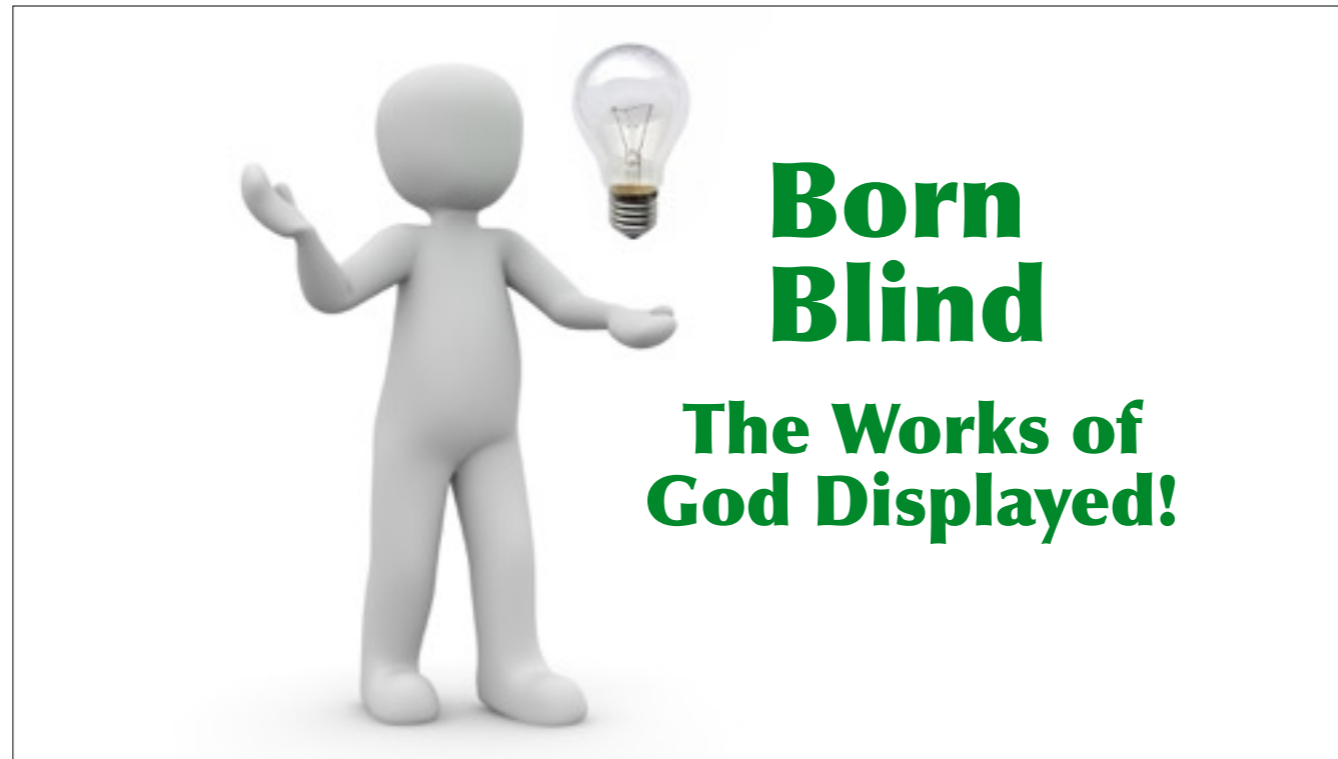
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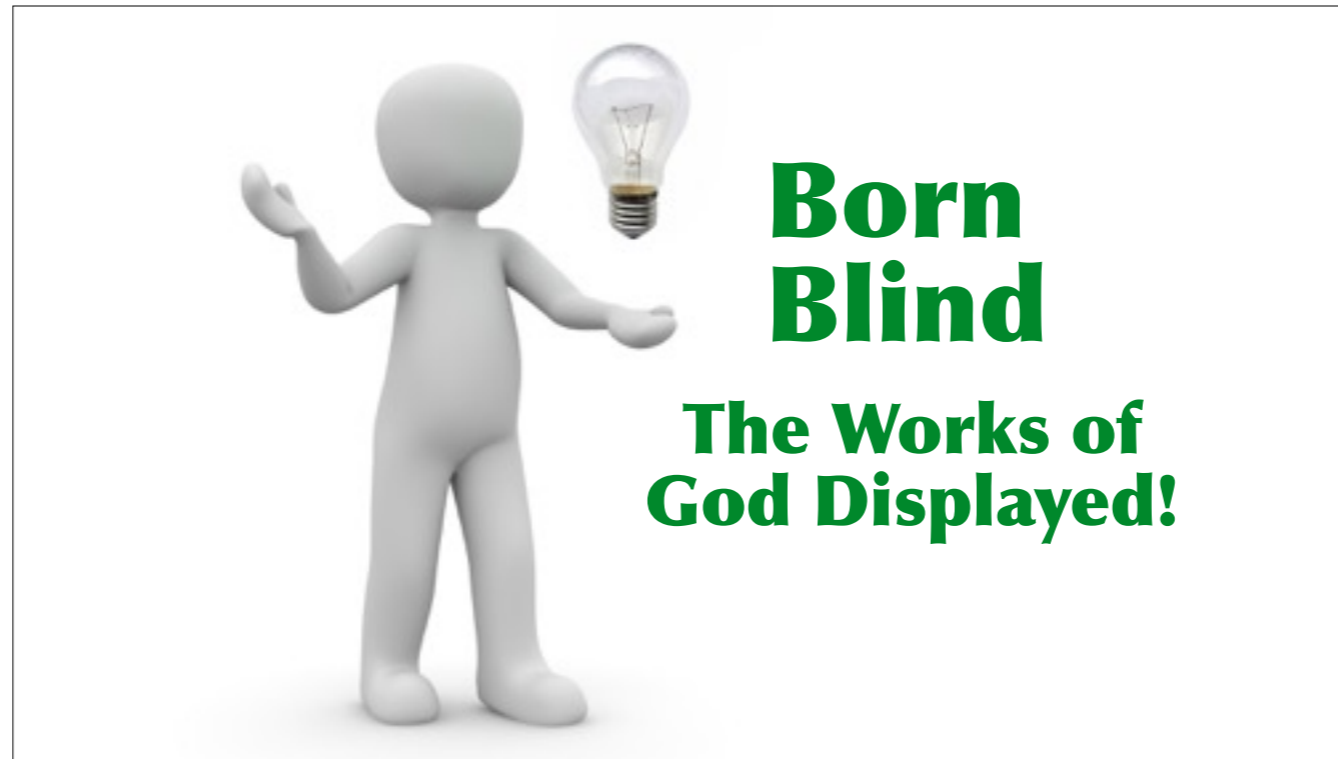
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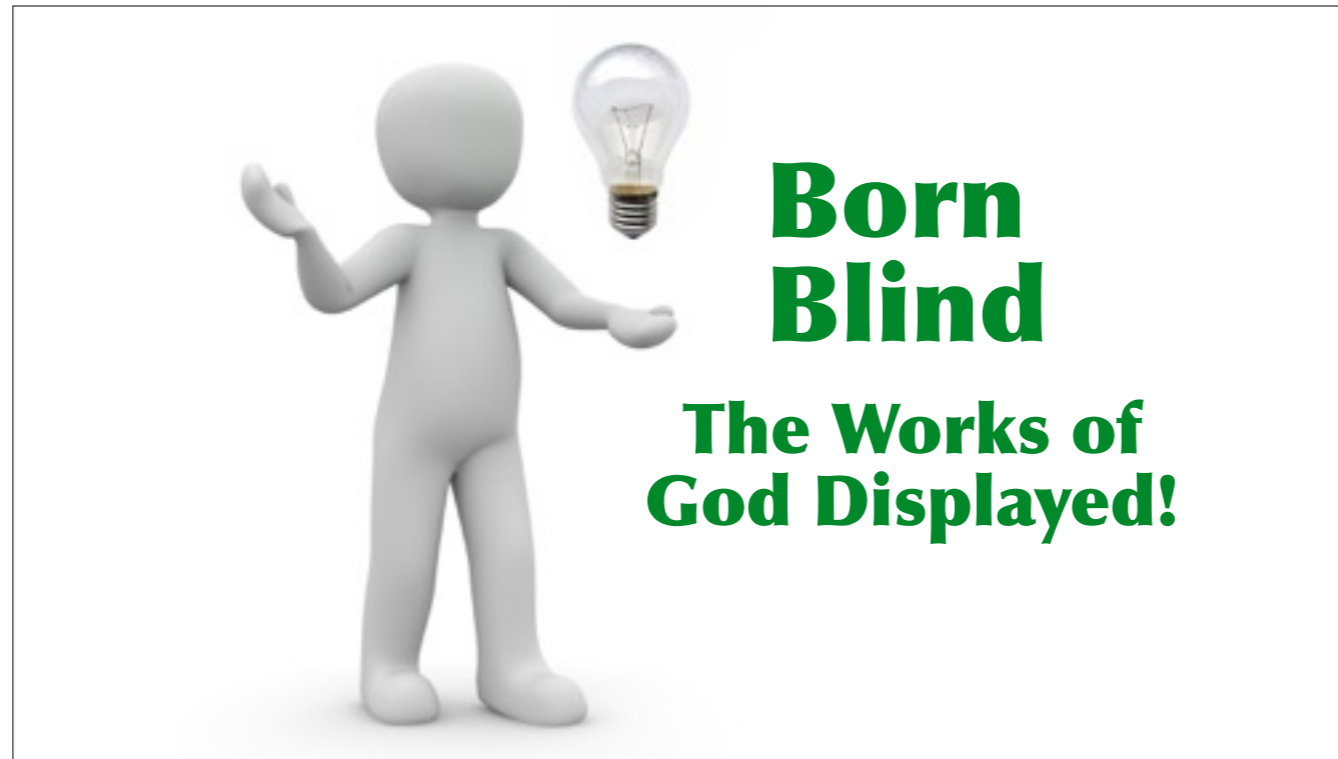


- John 9:3: Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.
- Jesus provides a third option that the disciples did not even consider.
- Jesus is STILL NOT arguing that Jehovah DID THIS to the blind man.

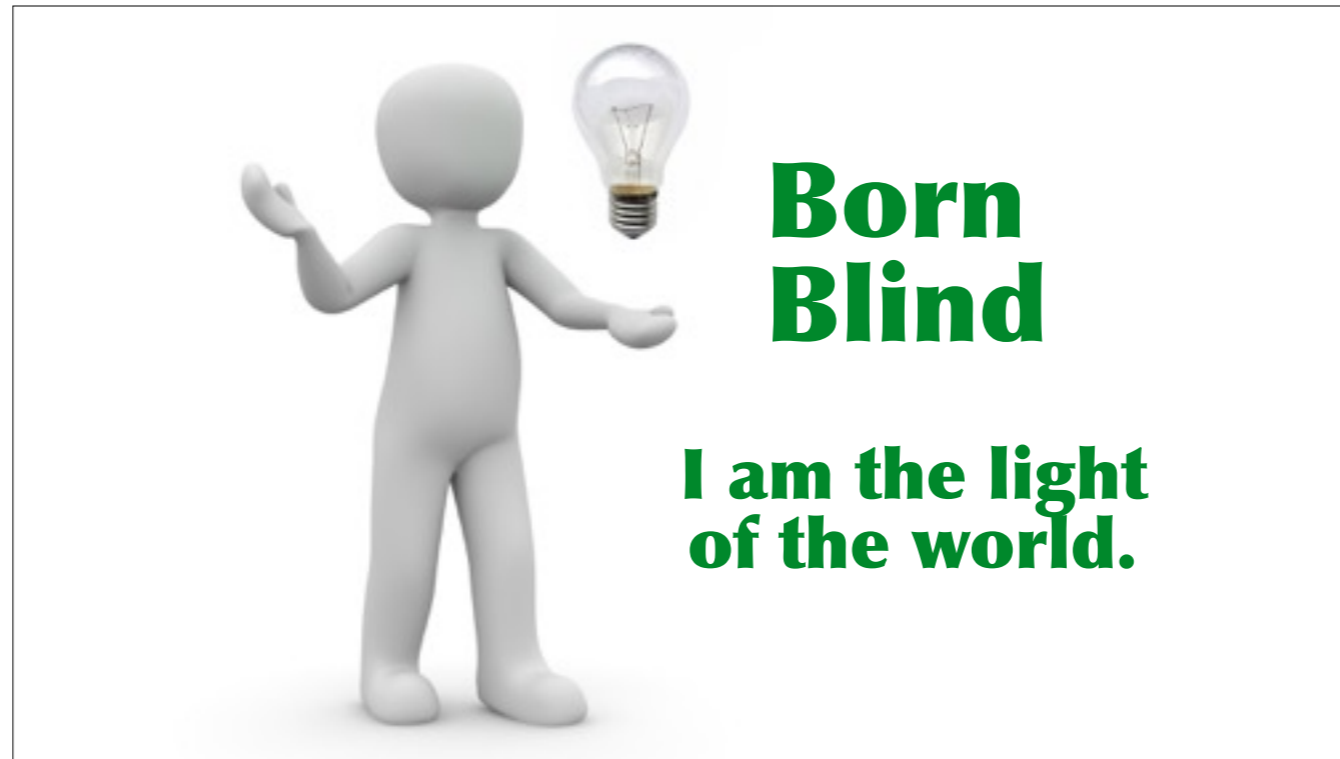


- Why me? (defeated) vs. Display God's works (triumph)
  - The tragedy or struggles of your life can be a way in which the works of God are displayed.
  - Not in the sense of a miraculous healing (as in text),
    - but that by living a righteous, godly life others may see that He is the Light of the World.





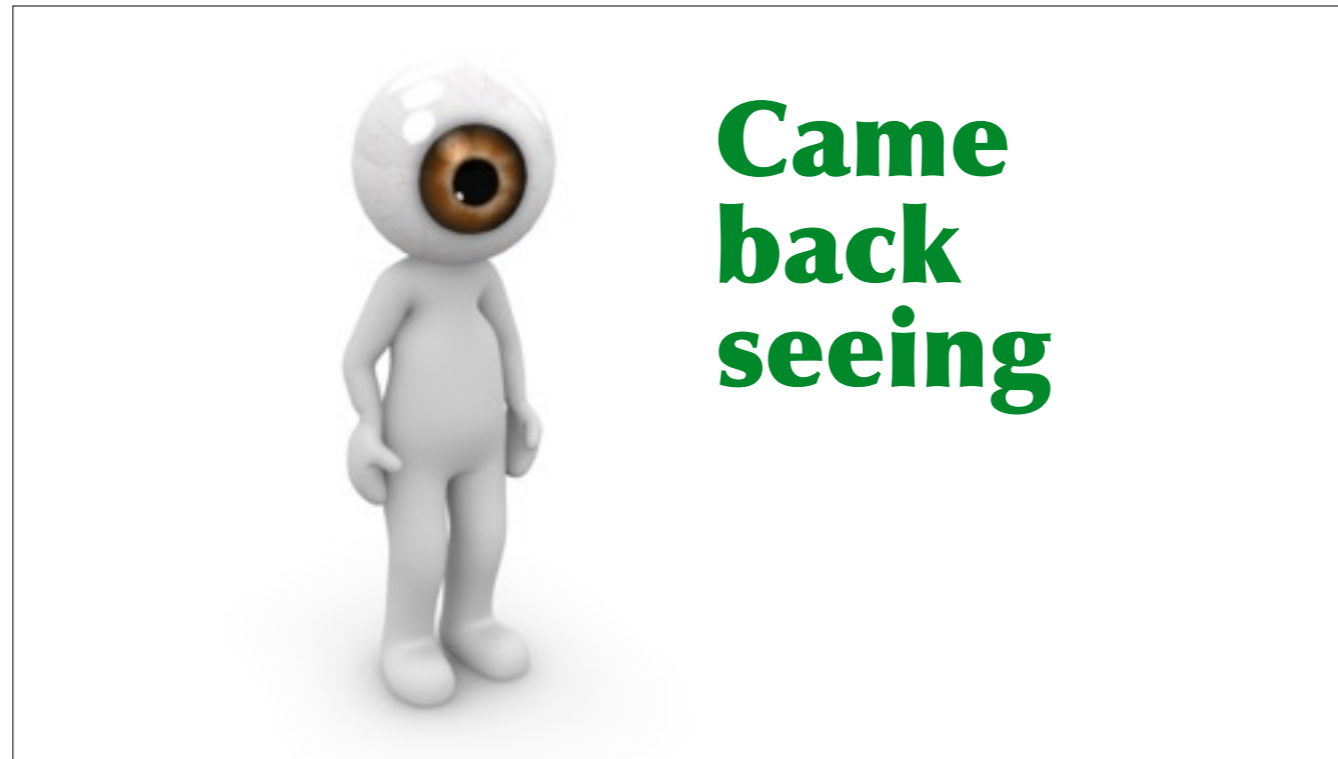
- Matthew 5:14-16: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



- John 9:5: As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”



- He Opened my Eyes



- Came back seeing
  - Jesus chooses an unusual way to heal the blindness: spit, mud, anoint eyes, wash in pool.
  - Man came back seeing.
  - This part of the story is simply told; consequences and meaning are emphasized by John.

# Proving the Sign



- Proving the Sign



- Neighbors (8-12)
  - Debate over who this man is: beggar or lookalike
  - Beggar confirms



- Neighbors: how eyes opened?
  - BM: Jesus
  - N: Where is he?
  - BM: I don't know.
- Take him to Pharisees... seeking an authoritative explanation?

## The Pharisees

Proving the Sign



- Pharisees (13-17)



## The Pharisees

Proving the Sign



**This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.**



- Sabbath: Therefore not from God (16) (kneading mud?)

## The Pharisees

Proving the Sign



**This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.**

**How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?**



- How can a man who is a sinner do such signs? (16)

## The Pharisees

He is a prophet.

Proving the Sign



This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.

How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?



- Blind man: **He is a prophet.** (17)
- Don't believe he is blind (18), call parents.

## The Parents

## Proving the Sign



- Parents (19-23)

## The Parents



## Proving the Sign



Is this your son,  
who you say born blind?



- Pharisees: Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?

## The Parents

We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.



## Proving the Sign



Is this your son, who you say born blind?



- Our son, born blind (20)
- Don't know how he sees, or who opened eyes (21)
- Pharisees: John 9:22: 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.**
- Ask him.

# Proving the Sign



- Neighbors, Pharisees, Parents
  - Know that he was blind, born blind
  - Know that he now can see.
- Man: Jesus!



- Proving the Christ
  - Blind man's conclusions and argument





- To neighbors
  - Jesus: received sight (11)



- To Pharisees



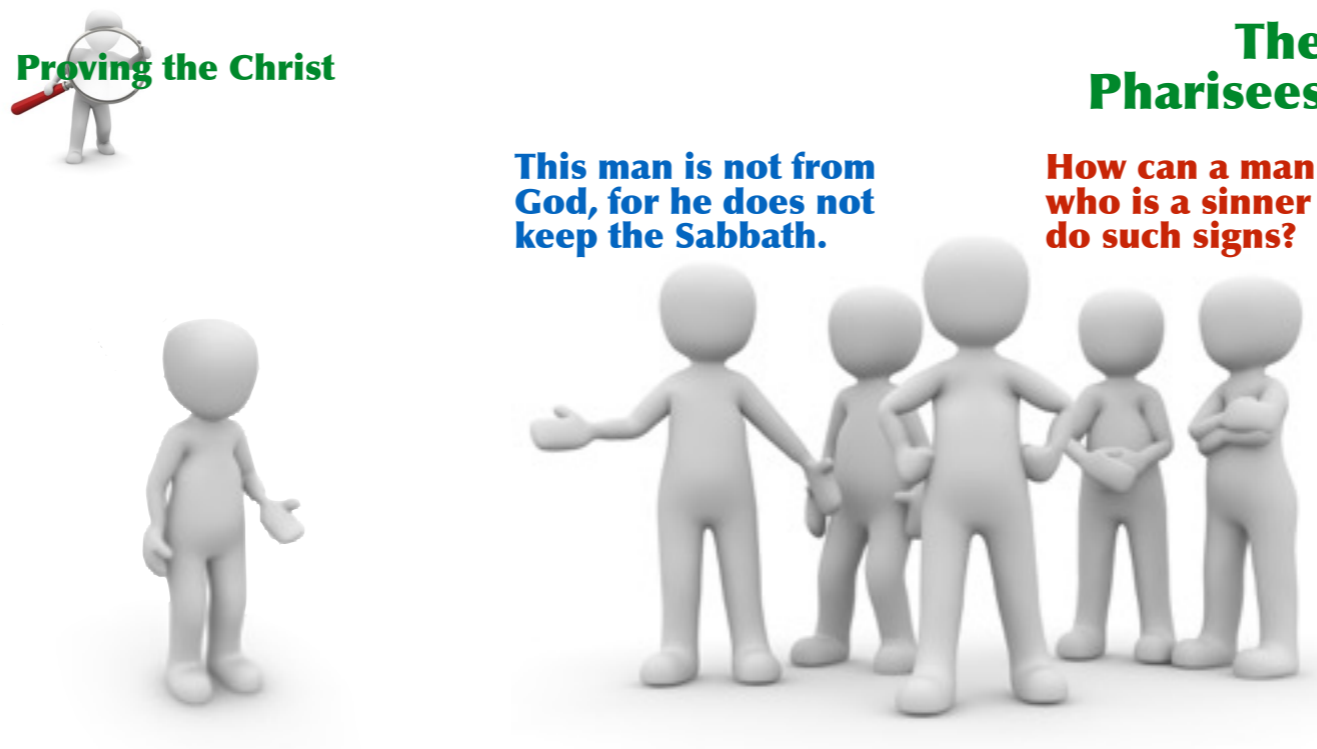
## The Pharisees



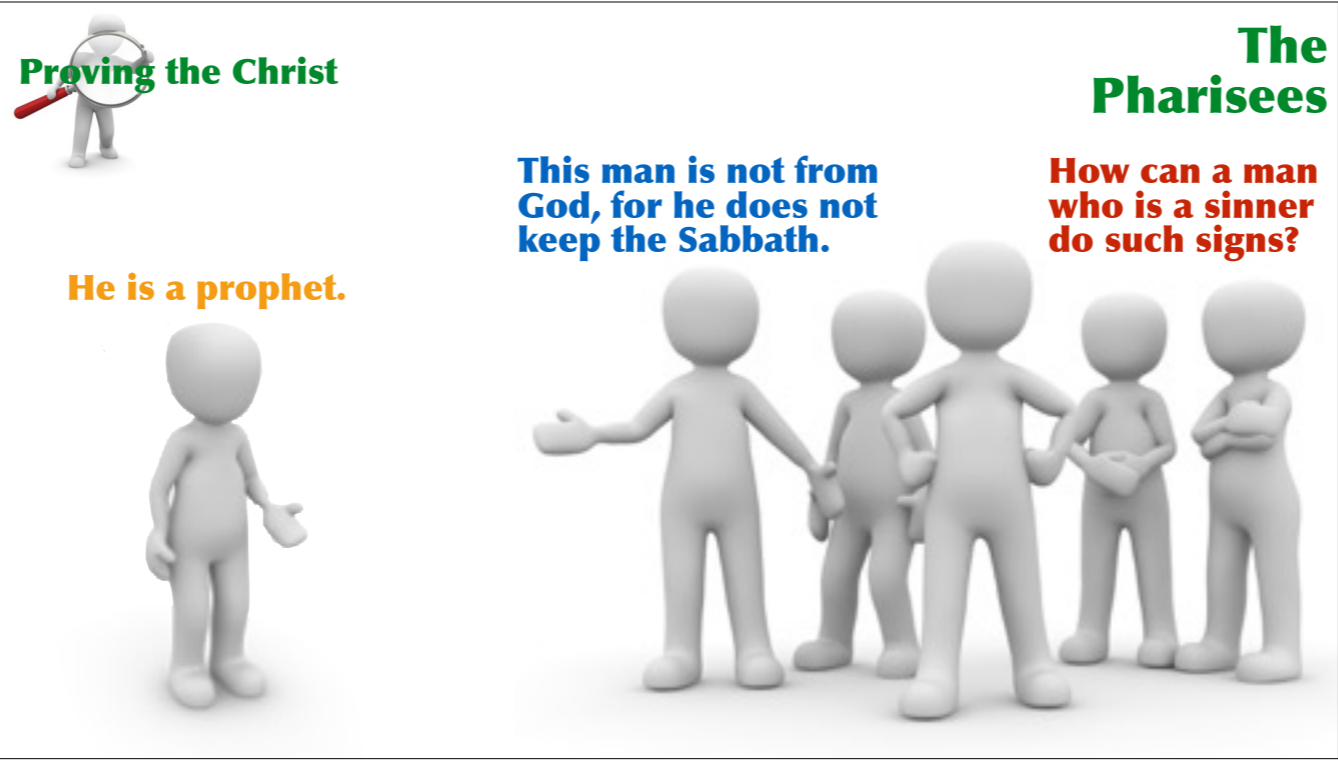
- First interview



- Sinner or sign?
  - God would not use an unrighteous man in order to accomplish something good.
    - Jesus broke the Sabbath, therefore he is a sinner.
    - Therefore Jesus is “not from God”



- Sign done by Jesus (blind man, neighbors, witnesses)
  - God would not use a sinner to accomplish good
  - Therefore Jesus is from God (and not a sinner).



- vs. 17: He is a prophet



## The Pharisees

**If anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ,  
he was to be put out of the synagogue.**



- Bias: vs. 22

- John 9:22: 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.**



**The  
Pharisees**



- Second interview (24-34)





- P: “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.”
  - How did they “know” that Jesus was a sinner?
  - Based on their current understanding of the Sabbath, together with authoritative opinions.



- BM: “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do **know**, that though **I was blind, now I see.**”



## The Pharisees

How did he open your eyes?



- P: 26: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"



## The Pharisees

How did he open your eyes?

Do you also want to become his disciples?



- BM: "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? **Do you also want to become his disciples?**"



## The Pharisees

Do you also want to become his disciples?



We do not know where he comes from.



- P: reviled: “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.
  - 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses,
  - but as for this man, **we do not know where he comes from.**”



## The Pharisees

**If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.**



**We do not know where he comes from.**



- BM: "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes."



## **The Pharisees**

**If this man were not from  
God, he could do nothing.**



**We do not know where he comes from.**



- BM: We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.



**Proving the Christ**

**The  
Pharisees**

**If this man were not from  
God, he could do nothing.**



**We do not know where he comes from.**



- BM: Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.





**Proving the Christ**

**The  
Pharisees**

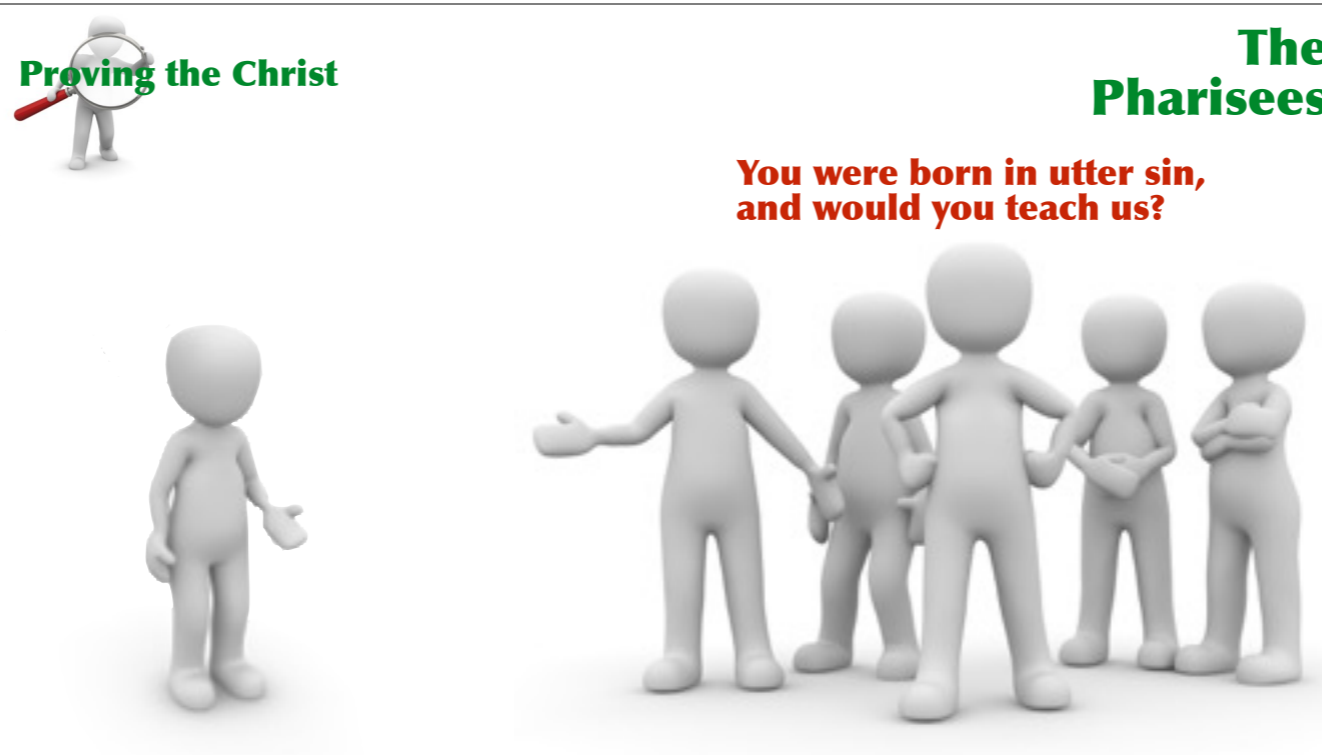
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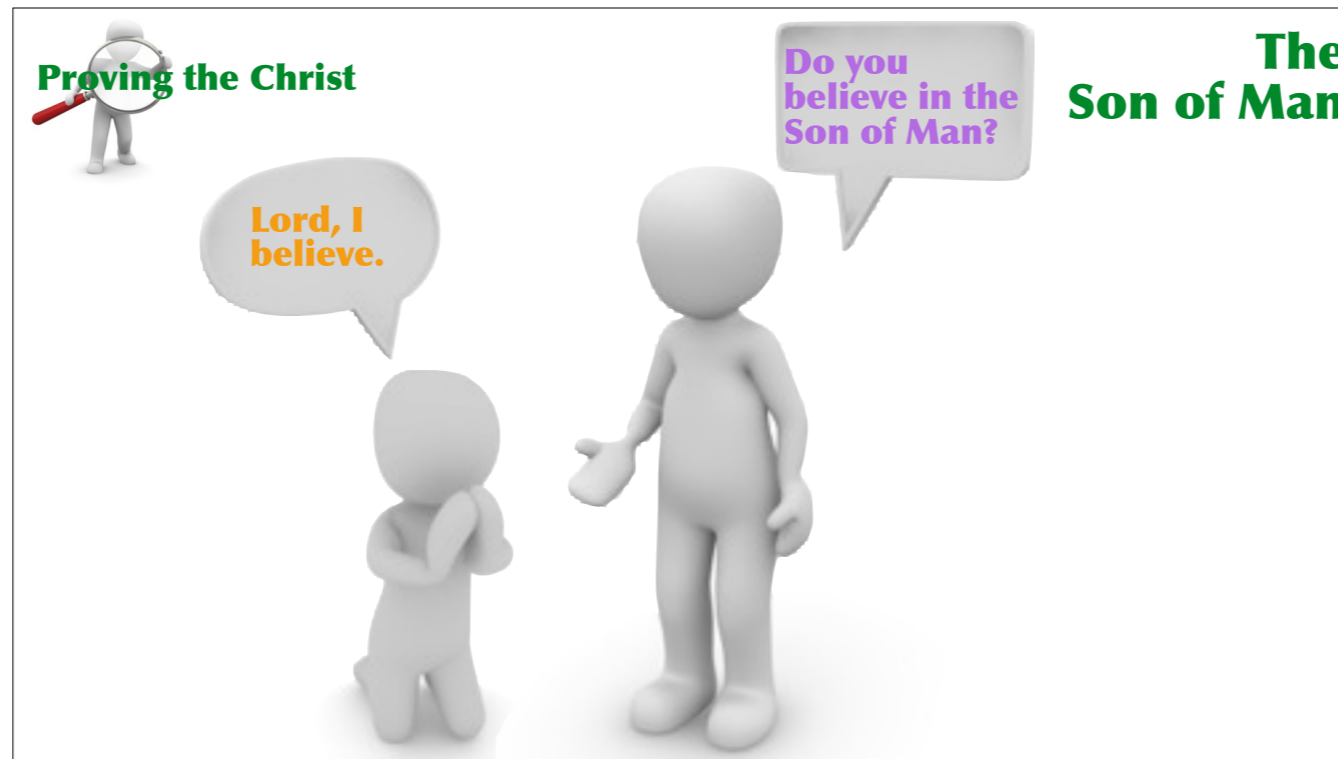
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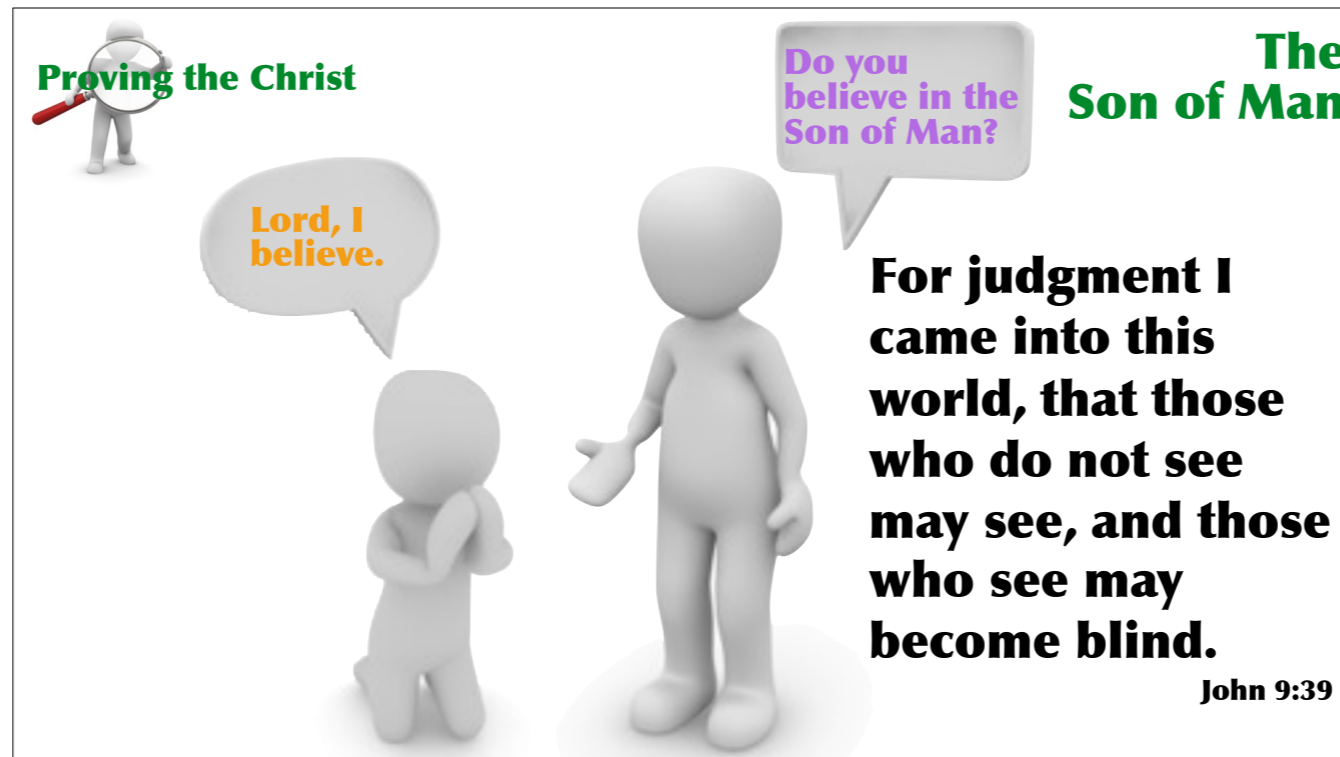
- BM: **If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”**



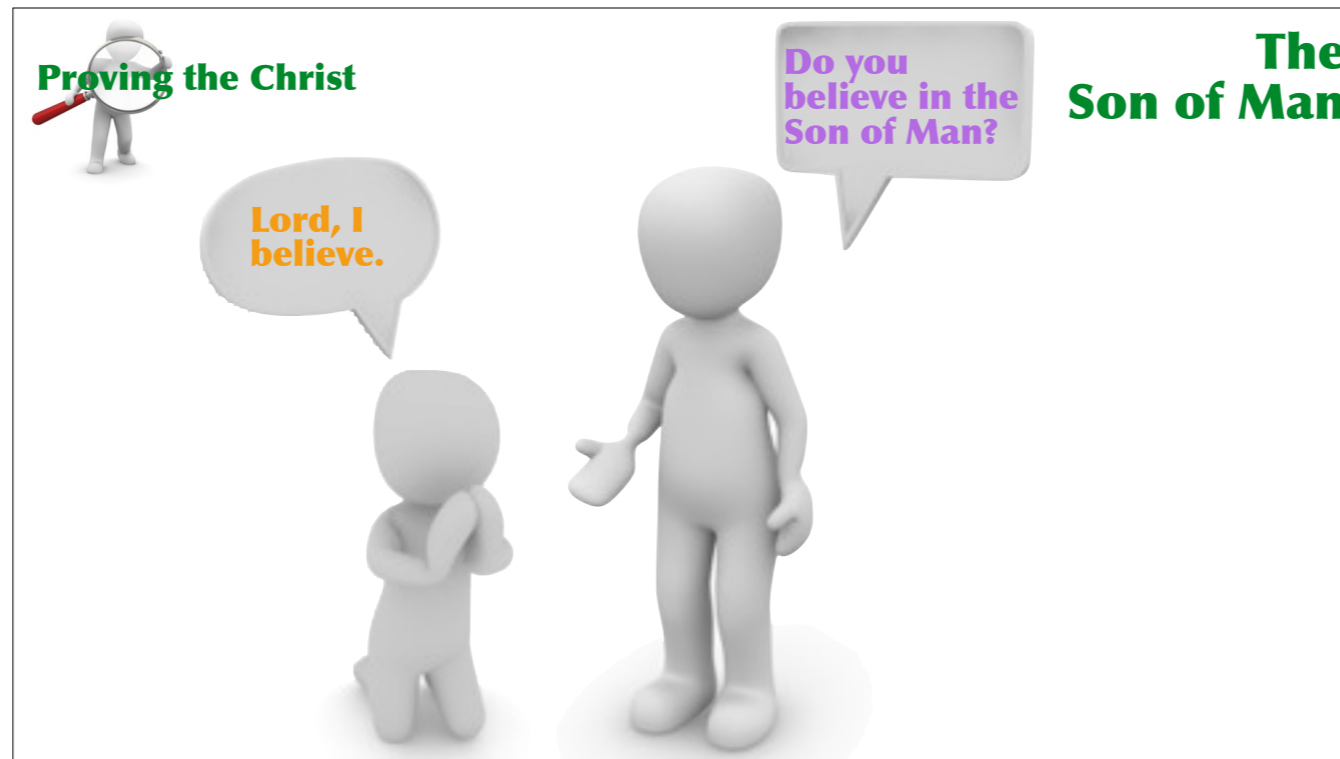
- P: "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.



- Jesus (35-39)
  - J: Do you believe in the Son of Man?
  - BM: Lord, I believe
    - worshiped Him.



- John 9:39: Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”
- John 9:5: As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.



- Blind man: Jesus, prophet, from God, Son of man
- Believe!!!
- Worship.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**



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## I Was Blind, Now I See

John 9

Synopsis: Jesus demonstrates that He is the light of the world by healing a man born blind. This sign powerfully shows that a man born blind received his sight and therefore that Jesus is the Christ, the son of Man and is worthy of our belief and worship.

“Let all that you do be done with love.”