



**For Further Thought and Study:** It is also true that Scripture teaches that suffering is sometimes the result of one's own sin (1 Corinthians 11:27-32; Numbers 12:1-15). There are also situations wherein we must suffer the consequences of the sinful choices of others.

**Reread John 9:1-12.** Give careful consideration to the words "we" and "must" in verse 4. There was a window of time in which Jesus was to accomplish the work His Father had for Him.

6. When considering Jesus' statements in verses 4 and 5 what was He telling the disciples?
  
7. How do verses 6 and 7 illustrate Jesus' claim in verse 5?
  
8. Why would Jesus send the man to wash in the Pool of Siloam before enabling his sight?
  
9. What imagery do you come away with by Jesus' act of smearing mud or clay on the blind man's eyes?

Look up Nehemiah 3:15 to read about the location of the Pool of Siloam. It is interesting to know that the water in the Pool of Siloam came from the Gihon Spring in the Kidron Valley, sent there by means of a channel. See, meditate and hear God's words in Isaiah 55:11.

10. What do the various reactions of those who had known him as the "blind beggar" reveal about the change in the man (verses 8-9)?

**Reread John 9:13-34.**

Perplexed by the former blind man's sudden and miraculous eyesight, his neighbors take him to the Pharisees, the deemed authorities concerning the things of God.

11. How would you characterize the division among the Pharisees as they investigate the phenomenon (verses 15-16)?

In order to reconcile the occurrence in their own minds the Pharisees presume that the man must not have been born blind and so summon the man's parents (verses 18-23).

12. How did the response of the former blind man's parents further baffle the Pharisees?

*Note: Under the law a story confirmed by at least two witnesses was to be validated as truth.*

13. From John's commentary in verses 22-23, what kept the former blind man's parents from speaking further on behalf of their son?

Despite witnesses and clear evidence of Jesus' miracle, along with the "seeing" man's testimony, the Pharisees still opted to condemn him.

14. Explain how the ex-blind man outwitted the Pharisees in verses 24-34.

15. What does the reaction of the Pharisees in verse 34 reveal about them?

In John 9:22 the Greek word for "put out" or "expelled from the synagogue" (*aposynagogos*) is seen for the first time in this gospel. By the end of the first century the Gospel of John had been written and this word was used in relation to Christians expelled from worshiping God in the synagogue. It conveyed a sense of deep rejection and bitter hurt to John's first century readers. (See also 9:34.)

*Forgotten it seems were God's forthtelling words spoken through the prophet Isaiah that when Messiah came He would open the eyes of the blind (Isaiah 29:18; 35:5; 42:7).*

**Reread John 9:35-41.**

Use your imagination again before answering the next questions. This time picture yourself as the *seeing* man after being put out of the synagogue and for the first time looking face to face at Jesus. Also notice who is listening in on the conversation.

16. Why was the man sought out by Jesus a second time?

17. From John 9:8-38 identify and list the various steps of faith the former blind man took.

*John uses this occasion to illustrate spiritual darkness equating it with the state of fallen mankind. Scripture commonly likens fallen man with darkness. (See Ephesians 4:18-19.)*

When Jesus found the former blind man it was in a public location where others were able to hear their conversation, including some of the Pharisees. In the final verses of this chapter Jesus shifted His attention to them.

18. **Reread verse 39** from some other translations if possible. Explain in your own words what Jesus meant as He spoke to these religious leaders. (See also Luke 18:9-14.)

Note: In this context “judgment” doesn’t refer to the act of judgment but to the result – to the “sifting and separating” of believers from those who reject Him.

19. Taking all of chapter 9 into consideration, summarize and write your own interpretation of Jesus’ response to the Pharisees in verse 41.

It is when we come to recognize our ever-desperate need for Him that Jesus enables our vision.

20. In what ways has God opened your spiritual eyes or enabled you to see certain truths more clearly from your study of John chapter 9?

21. Describe the steps of action you believe God wants you to take in order to apply these new insights to your life.

***John 9:25b: ... “One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”***... are the zealously spoken words of the formerly blind beggar as he attested to his new life-altering condition. These few but profoundly insightful words inspired one of our most famous hymns ever, “Amazing Grace.”

Closing Prayer... inspired by Isaiah 64:8

*“Oh LORD, You are our Father. We are the clay, You are the Potter; we are all the work of Your hand.” Open our eyes that we may see Your Light faithfully at work remaking us into something useful and miraculously wonderful. Remind us to love and encourage one another in the journey of life and to always look to You, Jesus... for vision and strength. We worship and praise You alone, Father... Amen.*