JOHN 9

# Once Blind, Now I See

*the sixth sign: the Light of the world opens the eyes of a man born blind*

> *"He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.""*
> JOHN 9:25

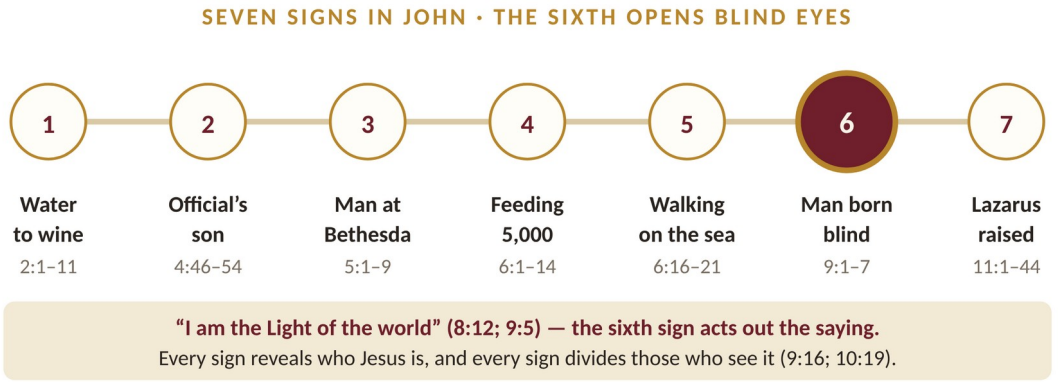
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

# Where we are in John

1. John 9 follows straight on from chapter 8.

2. Many readers count seven signs in John's Gospel before the cross: water into wine (2), the official's son (4), the man at Bethesda (5), the five thousand (6), walking on the sea (6), this man (9) and…

3. The pool of Siloam lay at the south end of the City of David, fed by water from the Gihon Spring through the tunnel Hezekiah cut (2 Kings 20:20; Guzik).



# The Light Opens Blind Eyes

*Not “who sinned?” but “the works of God” — clay, a command, and a man who comes back seeing*

**JOHN 9:6**

*When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,*

**DAVID GUZIK**

An unsolved riddle to the disciples; Jesus takes all the initiative; no formula.

**R.C. SPROUL**

A false dilemma; no chemical formula in the clay; an object lesson.

**C.H. SPURGEON**

Christ seeks the remedy, not the cause; inventive in love.

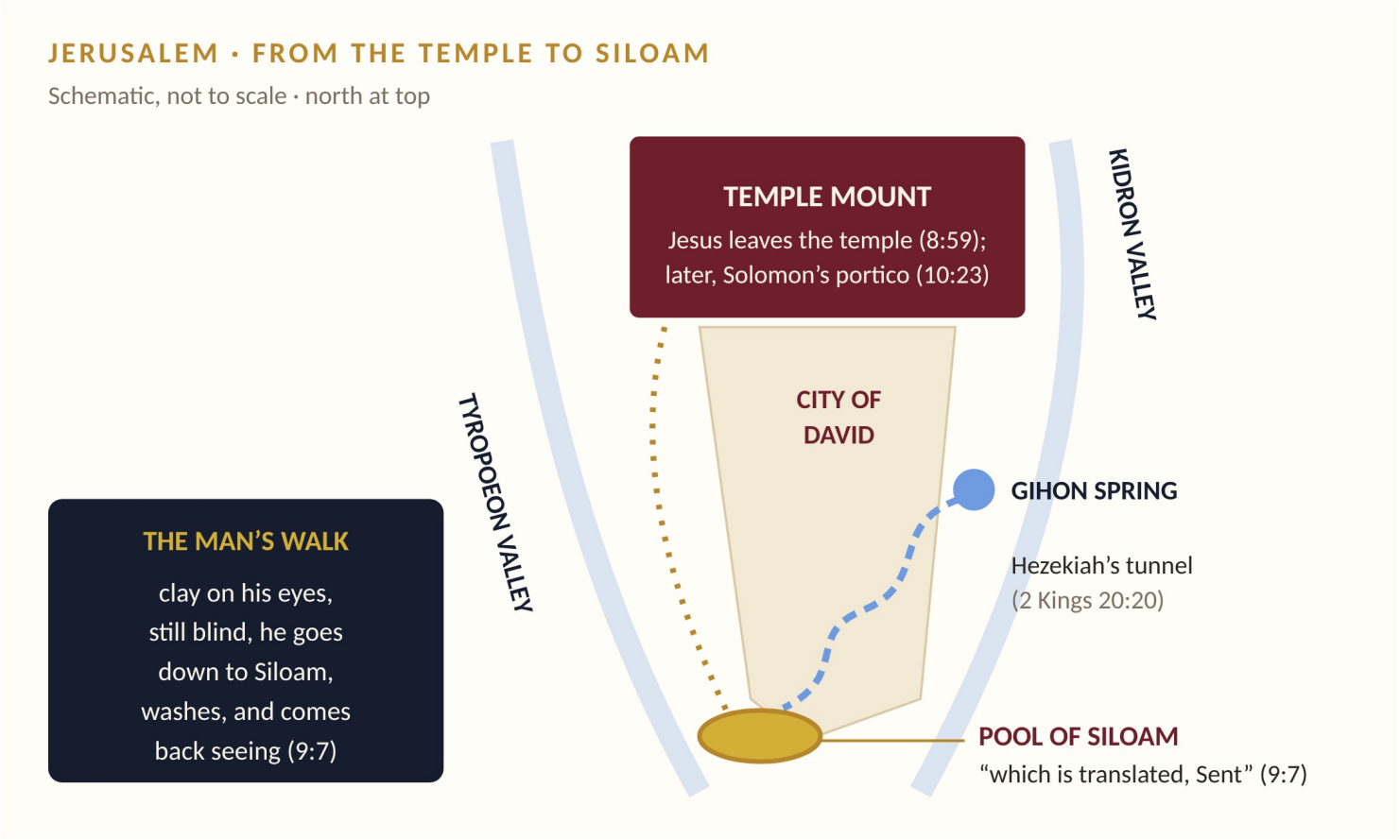
**MATTHEW HENRY**

Do good as you pass by; Christ’s spittle beats the balm of Gilead.

**πηλός**
PĒLOS · “CLAY”

Wet earth, mud — the potter’s clay.

# From the temple to Siloam




*Jesus left the temple at 8:59 and met the man on the way; the man walked, still blind, down to the pool at the south tip of the City of David, fed through Hezekiah's tunnel.*

# Questioned on Every Side

*Neighbors, Pharisees and parents — a division over a Sabbath miracle, and a family afraid*

**JOHN 9:16**

*Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.*

**DAVID GUZIK**

The Sabbath was deliberate; Jesus divides men; easier to deny the blindness.

**R.C. SPROUL**

Judged by technicalities; "He is a prophet"; the parents afraid.

**C.H. SPURGEON**

Unsafe to have your eyes opened among blind men.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

Prosecuted as a criminal; the fear of man brings a snare.

**σχίσμα**
SCHISMA · "DIVISION"

A tear or split — used literally of a torn garment (Matthew 9:16; Mark 2:21) and figuratively of a people split in two.

# One Thing I Do Know

*The second hearing — a beggar's testimony, a theologian's argument, and the door slammed shut*

**JOHN 9:25**

*He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

**DAVID GUZIK**

He didn't know everything, but knew what Jesus did; expulsion was a mercy.

**R.C. SPROUL**

Never confuse your personal testimony with the gospel.

**C.H. SPURGEON**

The gospel can stand any quantity of questioning.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

Proud men scorn to be taught by their inferiors.

**οἶδα**

OIDA · "I KNOW"

The perfect of eidō, "to see," used as "to know" — knowledge that comes from having seen.

# Two directions in one chapter

| THE MAN BORN BLIND<br>sees more of Jesus in every scene | THE PHARISEES<br>see less with every answer |
|---|---|
| v11 “The man who is called Jesus” | v16 “This man is not from God” |
| v17 “He is a prophet” | v18 won’t believe he was blind |
| v27 “His disciples too?” | v24 “this man is a sinner” |
| v33 “from God” | v29 “we do not know where He is from” |
| v38 “Lord, I believe” — worships | v41 “your sin remains” |

**JOHN 9:39**

“… so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”

*Read down each column: the beggar’s words about Jesus climb from “a man” to worship, while the Pharisees’ words sink from “not from God” to “your sin remains.”*

# Found, Seeing, Worshiping

*Jesus finds the outcast — faith in the Son of Man, and a judgment that turns sight to blindness*

**JOHN 9:35**

*Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

**DAVID GUZIK**

Jesus receives the worship; all blind from birth — the difference is knowing it.

**R.C. SPROUL**

From prophet to Son of God; worship accepted — a claim to deity.

**C.H. SPURGEON**

When he was put out, Jesus found him — a blessed loss.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

A friend from whom men cannot debar them; convinced of disease, near the cure.

**προσεκύνησεν**

PROSEKYNĒSEN · "HE WORSHIPED"

From proskyneō, "to bow down, prostrate oneself" in homage.

# What to carry from this chapter

1

### Jesus answers “why?” with “what now.”

The disciples asked whose sin caused the blindness; Jesus said the man was there “so that the works of God might be displayed in him” (v. 3).

2

### The sign acts out the saying.

“I am the Light of the world” (v. 5) is followed by a man who had never seen light.

3

### The man obeyed before he could see.

He walked to Siloam with clay on his eyes.

4

### There is no formula in the clay.

Sproul: “Do not think there is a chemical formula in Palestinian clay.”

# More to carry

5

### The same miracle, two verdicts.

Schisma — “division” (9:16; 10:19).

6

### Fear of man silences people who know the truth.

The parents knew their son was born blind and now saw, but they “were afraid of the Jews” (v. 22).

7

### “One thing I do know.”

The man admitted what he did not know and held to what he did.

8

### A testimony is not yet the gospel.

Sproul: “Do not ever confuse your personal testimony with the gospel. … The gospel is about Him.”

# Talk it through

1. What hard thing in my life have I spent years asking “who sinned?” about — and what might it look like for the works of God to be displayed in it?

2. Jesus told the man to go and wash before he could see anything. Where is Jesus asking me to obey before I see the result?

3. The parents knew the truth but kept quiet for fear of being put out. Whose opinion keeps me quiet about Jesus?

4. What is my “one thing I do know”? Can I tell it in two sentences — and then point past it to Jesus Himself?

5. Have I ever been thrown out — by family, a church, a crowd — for following Jesus? How does verse 35 speak to that?

## CLOSING

*John 9 begins with a man nobody noticed except as a riddle, and ends with that man on his knees before the Son of Man while the experts walk away blind. The same Jesus still passes by, still sees, still sends, and still finds those the world has thrown out. Whatever else we do not know, we can know this: once blind, now I see.*

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the John study page.