

**Program:** SS Panel 2024 4 Q

**Quarterly title:** Themes in the Gospel of John

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**Lesson Title:** #2 Signs of Divinity

**Section title:** Wednesday - The Healing of the Blind Man: Part 2

**Note:** This color and font = quarterly text

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Send notes this way: First & Last Name 2024 Q3 L# Name of Your Days Lesson

**Lesson 2**

*\*October 5-11*

**Read for This Week’s Study:** *John 6:1–15, Isa. 53:4–6, 1 Cor. 5:7, John 6:26–36, John 9:1–41, 1 Cor. 1:26–29, John 11.*

**Memory Text:** “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ ” (*John 11:25, 26, NKJV*).

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**WEDNESDAY**

*October 9*

**The Healing of the Blind Man: Part 2**

**Read John 9:17–34.** What questions did the leaders ask, and how did the blind man respond?

**John 9:17–34 17** They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

**18** But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

19 And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

>> we see obvious evidence here that the Pharisees could not deny this man could see. He is no longer blind. To settle it in their mind once and for all they asked his parents.

**John 9:20** His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

**21** but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.”

**22** His parents said these *things* because **they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.**

**23** Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

>> so what do we see going on here? Why did the leading Jews take such a position against Jesus Christ? Why aren't they happy to know that Jesus was the Christ, that is the Messiah? It is because by this time they have made a decision that he did not fit their ideas about the Messiah. They thought He should be delivering us from the Romans, they misunderstood His mission.

During the time when Jesus was on earth, the Jews, including the scribes and Pharisees, had specific expectations for what the Messiah would do. These expectations were shaped by the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) and various Jewish traditions. The key expectations included:

1. **\*\*Political and Military Leader\*\*** Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6: The Messiah was expected to be a descendant of King David who would rise as a powerful political and military leader. This leader would **liberate the Jewish people from Roman occupation and oppression, restoring the sovereignty of Israel.**

2. **\*\*Restoration of the Kingdom of Israel\*\*** Amos 9:11; Ezekiel 37:24-25: The Messiah would restore the Kingdom of Israel to its former glory, as it was under King David and King Solomon. This included re-establishing a Jewish monarchy and rebuilding the national institutions.

3. **\*\*Rebuilding the Temple\*\***: The Messiah was expected to rebuild the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by the Babylonians and later rebuilt, but **was in need of restoration and purification**.
4. **\*\*Gathering the Exiles\*\***: The Messiah would gather all Jewish exiles from around the world and bring them back to the Land of Israel, fulfilling the prophecy of the ingathering of the exiles.
5. **\*\*Establishing a Reign of Peace and Justice\*\***: The Messiah's rule was expected to be characterized by peace, justice, and adherence to the Torah. He would establish a righteous government, end injustice, and bring about a time of global peace and prosperity.
6. **\*\*Spiritual Renewal\*\***: The Messiah would lead a spiritual revival among the Jewish people, bringing them closer to God and encouraging greater observance of the Torah and its commandments.

>>> These hopes were deeply rooted in the socio-political context of the time, as **the Jewish people were living under Roman occupation and were yearning for national and religious redemption**.

>> To get a little more background as to what is happening in John chapter 9, let's take a quick look at some things that had happened before:

>> John chapter 5 Jesus heals a man that was lame and unable to walk for 38 years that was waiting by the pool of Bethesda for the moving of the water. Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath day and told him to take up his bed and walk.

**Jhn 5:18** Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

**Jhn 7:1** After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

>>> It was beginning to spread in society the leaders of the Jews wanted to kill Jesus

**Jhn 7:25** Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?

**Jhn 7:26** But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?

\*\*\*\*Use???

**Jhn 7:37** In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

**Jhn 7:38** **He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

**Jhn 7:40** Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

**Jhn 7:41** Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

**Jhn 7:42** Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

**Jhn 7:43** So there was a division among the people because of him.

**Jhn 7:44** And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

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### **Never man spake like this man**

**Jhn 7:45** Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

**Jhn 7:46** The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

**Jhn 7:47** Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?

**Jhn 7:48** Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

### **Before Abraham was, I am.**

**Jhn 8:56** **Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.**

**Jhn 8:57** Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

**Jhn 8:58** Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**

**Jhn 8:59** **Then took they up stones to cast at him:** but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

### **The Formely blind man begins to witness**

**John 9:24** So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.”

25 He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.”

26 Then they said to him again, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?”

27 He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? **Do you also want to become His disciples?**”

28 Then they reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples.

29 We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for this fellow*, we do not know where He is from.”

**John 9:30** The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!

31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but **if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.**

32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

33 **If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”**

34 They answered and said to him, “**You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?**” **And they cast him out.**

This long section of John 9 is the only portion of John where Jesus is not the main actor on the stage, though He is certainly the subject of discussion. Just as the question of sin started the story (*John 9:2*), **the Pharisees think Jesus is a sinner because He healed on the Sabbath (*John 9:16, 24*), and they will slander the healed man as “born in utter sin” (*John 9:34, ESV*).**

**\*\*\*READ???**

**A curious reversal occurs. The blind man comes to see more and more, not just physically but spiritually, as he is growing in his appreciation for Jesus and for belief in Him.** The Pharisees, in contrast, become more and more blind in their understanding, first being divided over Jesus (*John 9:16*), and then not knowing where He came from (*John 9:29*).

Meanwhile, his recounting of this miracle gives John the opportunity to tell us who Jesus is. The theme of signs in John 9 intersects with several other themes in the Gospel. John reaffirms that Jesus is the Light of the world (*John 9:5*; compare with *John 8:12*). The story also deals with Jesus’ mysterious origin. Who is He, where is He from, what is His mission? (*John 9:12, 29*; compare with *John 1:14*). The figure of Moses, who is referenced in previous miracle accounts, also appears in this chapter

(John 9:28, 29; compare with John 5:45, 46 and John 6:32). Finally, there is the theme of the response of the crowd. Some love darkness rather than light, while others respond in faith (John 9:16–18, 35–41; compare with John 1:9–16, John 3:16–21, John 6:60–71).

**\*\*\*READ\*\*\***

So scary here is the spiritual blindness of the religious leaders. A once-blind beggar can declare, “ ‘Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing” (John 9:32, 33, NKJV). And yet the religious leaders, the spiritual guides of the nation, the ones who should have been the first to recognize Jesus and accept Him as the Messiah—they, despite all the powerful evidence, cannot see it. Or instead, they don’t really want to see it. What a powerful warning about how our hearts can deceive us!

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–29. How does what Paul writes there fit what happened in this scene, and how does the same principle apply even now?**

**God has chosen the foolish things**

**1 Corinthians 1:26–29 26** For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.

**27** But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

**28** and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

**29** that no flesh should glory in His presence.



**Additional notes:**

From Chat GPT

The expectations for the Messiah during the time of Jesus were rooted in various passages from the Hebrew Scriptures. Here are some key scriptures that shaped these beliefs:

1. **\*\*Political and Military Leader\*\***:

- **Isaiah 9:6-7**: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

- **Jeremiah 23:5-6**: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior."

## 2. **Restoration of the Kingdom of Israel**:

- **Amos 9:11**: "In that day I will restore David's fallen shelter—I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins—and will rebuild it as it used to be."

- **Ezekiel 37:24-25**: "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever."

## 3. **Rebuilding the Temple**:

- **Ezekiel 37:26-28**: "I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever."

- **Malachi 3:1**: "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty."

## 4. **Gathering the Exiles**:

- **Isaiah 11:11-12**: "In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth."

- **Jeremiah 31:8-10**: "See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the

lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'"

5. **Establishing a Reign of Peace and Justice**:

- **Isaiah 2:4**: "He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."

- **Jeremiah 33:15**: "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land."

6. **Spiritual Renewal**:

- **Ezekiel 36:26-27**: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

- **Zechariah 14:9**: "The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name."

These passages collectively illustrate the multifaceted expectations of the Messiah held by Jews during the time of Jesus.