

# Readers Theatre for John 9:1-41

Based on NRSV. Arranged by David A. Douthett

*Characters: Narrator, Disciples, Jesus, Crowd, Blind Man, Pharisees, Leaders, Parents*

- Narrator As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. His disciples asked him,
- Disciples “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
- Jesus “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
- Narrator When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him,
- Jesus “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”
- Narrator (which means Sent). Then the man went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,
- Crowd “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”
- Narrator Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying,
- Blind Man “I am the man.”
- Narrator But they kept asking him,
- Crowd “Then how were your eyes opened?”
- Blind Man “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”
- Crowd “Where is he?”
- Blind Man “I do not know.”
- Narrator They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight.
- Blind Man “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”
- Narrator Some of the Pharisees said,
- Pharisees “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.”

Narrator But others said,

Pharisees “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”

Narrator And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

Pharisees “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

Blind Man “He is a prophet.”

Narrator The Jewish leaders did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them,

Leaders “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

Narrator His parents answered,

Parents “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”

Narrator His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders; for the Jewish leaders had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

Narrator So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

Leaders “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”

Blind Man “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

Leaders “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

Blind Man “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?”

Leaders [*reviling*] “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

Blind Man “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

Leaders “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?”

Narrator      And they drove him out.      *[Pause]*

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

Jesus            “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

Blind Man      “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus            “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”

Blind Man      “Lord, I believe.”

Narrator      And he worshiped him.

Jesus            “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”

Narrator      Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him,

Pharisees      “Surely we are not blind, are we?”

Jesus            “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.