



Who is Jesus: The Blind man

There have been incidents where a person has stood up and denounced certain rules or traditions. Soon afterwards, we have read that they were caught doing the very thing they were against. I have seen that a few times. It still amazes me what people say and do. I bet aliens would think the human race is nuts at times. Who do we say we are? More importantly who do others say we are?

Who is Jesus? It would be easy to quote Jesus saying or doing things in the Bible. Big deal, it's a book. That proves nothing. Yet, the Bible loves to paint an honest picture of people. Abraham had strong and weak faith. Moses killed someone and was afraid. David committed adultery and made mistakes as a father. Why would the picture of Jesus be any different? The Gospels tell a Jewish story just like all those before them. A story that illustrates the real picture of who people were and what they did. That includes Jesus.

Today we are going to focus on the story of the Blind man in John 9. Yet, we need to back up just a bit and take a look at John 8. Jesus is being grilled by the religious rulers on his relationship to the great patriarch Abraham. Jesus boldly claims the unclaimable. They ask him if he met Abraham which is ludicrous. Jesus then uses the words that are not supposed to be spoken in Jewish circles "*I am.*" Jesus was claiming he was God. They call Jesus a demon for saying such things. Then Jesus leaves and sees a blind man.

This is such a good picture of Jesus. It's interesting that the disciples ask Jesus who this blind man was: a sinner or a cursed man because of his parent's sin. Jesus says neither, but responds "God does what he does for his own reasons." With that said Jesus does another crazy thing. Remember Jesus had just made claims he was God in chapter 8. In those days there were healing pools around the city of Jerusalem. Jesus bent down and made mud with his spit. He covered the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash it off in the pool. Jesus was claiming authority over the healing pools. I bet that got people's attention.

So, Jesus claims he was God, then he should be able to do God stuff. Right away, Jesus heals a blind man. Then the trial begins. The authorities and surrounding community were astounded. Who is this Jesus? This is the fun part. The former blind man can see now. An argument breaks out over who the blind man is. So, they call in the religious authorities to investigate. Rumors begin to swirl about who Jesus is too: a prophet, demon, healer, sinner, and not from God.

Then it gets even better. The parents of the former blind man are brought in. They say the blind man is their son. The religious authorities try and question them but the parents insist their son can answer himself. Within this discussion is a view of who Jesus is. The authorities call Jesus a demon. The blind man thinks this is funny. He wonders out loud to them; I'm watching men of God seeing a God miracle happen. Then he questions them: you say only Satan could do this miracle of making me see? The former blind man also says he can clearly see and that only someone from God could make him see. These apparently misinformed and blind religious rulers could not see God at work. A disagreement breaks out and they toss the blind man into the streets. Who is Jesus?

What it means?

Verses 32 and 33 of John 9 says *“Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”*”

That is so cool. The Blind man can see and the religious authorities appear blind. They claim they know God but could not see the work of God in action. Why does it matter who Jesus is? Many people over the centuries have claimed to know who Jesus is. Was He being a good teacher, a prophet, or healer? Maybe Jesus was God or possibly a lunatic? Many of those same people claim to know who Jesus is directly because of rumors. They have an opinion because Jesus does not fit their view of God. I think that is what this chapter is trying to say. The view of God by the religious authorities did not fit Jesus. Their God would not help a poor blind man. Their God would not come to earth. Jesus was not their God.

The blind man wanted to believe. How many times did these same religious rulers pass this man by daily, weekly, and yearly. Did they pray for him? Did they lead him to the healing pools? Did they take care of him? It appears that they considered him below them. Jesus comes by and treats this man with dignity. The real God would help. Jesus claimed to be that God. Not only did Jesus claimed to be God, He acted like the loving Lord. Maybe Jesus is God like he claimed to be.

Who is Jesus? Verse 21 says *“Others were saying, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”* People keep trying to twist him into something else. Verse 25 sums it up. *“He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”* The People have spoken. Maybe Jesus is what he claimed to be.

