

**Man Born Blind**  
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John's Gospel calls the various miracles Jesus performed "signs." Miracles tell deeper truths about Jesus Christ and what it means to be a Christian. The key to today's passage is found in the previous chapter in which Jesus states, "I am the light of the world." In the blind man John sees human beings who are born blind as the miraculously cured man was. Babies are beautiful, but they are merciless when it comes to getting what they need. It takes a lot of civilizing to help a child to learn to share. We have all felt the blindness of seeking what we want regardless of the needs of others.

Jesus tells us a better way to live. Jesus has taught us to be cooperative in our life style. The gifts God has given each of us are meant for the benefit of all. We are to help each other become aware of and to claim God's gifts to us. We have been created to help one another live more fully. The question comes up, if Jesus message is so profoundly true, why do individuals find it so hard to live his teachings? John's story today gives us an example of how some people can refuse Jesus teachings and how others come to grasp them well.

We all have some Pharisee in us. We are reluctant to believe what puts us in a bad light, or what threatens what we believe is beneficial to us. The Pharisees badgered the man whose sight was restored. They did not want to believe that Jesus had cured him. They kept asking the sight restored man questions, the answer to which might in some way deny what Jesus had done. At first the man just told the facts, but the unfairness of the Pharisees made the man think deeper. As the Pharisees questions grew more hostile, the man telling the truth began to see deeper into what he had experienced. He gave honest answers. Then he saw Jesus as a prophet, and, finally, that Jesus must be from God. When Jesus offered him the gift of faith, he was ready to receive it. He could say in the end, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

Jesus told us before the miracle was performed that he would do it "that the works of God might be made visible through the blind man." We are blind to reality when we see the world only in terms of our own selfishness. God giving the grace to see also means giving us the power to act according to the truth that is revealed to us. Jesus named himself, "the way, the truth and the life." Living the truth Jesus has revealed to us, is the way to lead a genuinely worthwhile life. Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." Living the truth will help us to see more and more profoundly into the depths of God's goodness and love for us.

Observing nature without revelation, persons find it hard to see God's love penetrating all things. Through Jesus we see all of nature as God's gift of love to us. This is a spectacularly different way of seeing the world. Through Jesus we are encouraged to see the good in those around us. Life is much more pleasant when we see others as possible benefactors rather than as competitors.

Through Jesus we come to faith. The essential meaning of faith is to trust that God is always working for our good, even in what seem to be most trying times. Faith-filled individuals have the same difficulties as others, but at the same time there is a great peacefulness to their living. Seeing purpose in life gives great grounding in the things we do. Our lives are on solid ground.

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Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to show us how to live contented and productive lives. He gained for us the inspiration and power to follow him. We must pray that the love of Christ will permeate our lives. We are called to be instruments of love. Should we not all pray, "O Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. "