

## **John 9:18**

John chapter 9 is the account of Jesus giving sight to a man who was born blind.

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(1)

Think about [John 9:18-19](#).

*The Jews 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, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"*

- What do you think; why didn't these Jewish leaders want to believe Jesus had given sight to this man who had been born blind?

[John 5:36-38](#) (Jesus said) *For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ... and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.*

[John 3:19-20](#) (Jesus said) *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.*

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(2)

Think about [John 9:20-23](#).

*His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."*

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Note: The Jewish synagogues functioned in a similar way as modern churches. Synagogues served many purposes for the Jewish community. The synagogue was a place where the Jews would gather to worship, and to hear and study the Scriptures. It was also used as a town hall, a court of law, and a community center. The synagogue was central to the life of the Jewish people.

For a Jew to be put out of the synagogue was a public curse. It meant, not only being forbidden to enter the synagogue, but being cut off from all community life. Those put out of the synagogue were prevented from any contact with the other Jews. And the other Jews avoided them, as if they had leprosy.  
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- What did these parents fear?
  - What did these Jewish leaders fear?  
[John 11:47-48](#) *So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."*
  - How did these rulers seek to control the thinking and behavior of the people? (See John 9:20-23 quoted above.)
  - If rulers punish their people, when their people do what is good and right, then what does that say about those rulers?  
[Romans 13:3-4](#) *For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. ...*
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(3)

Think about [John 9:24-25](#).

*So for the second time they (the Pharisees) called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man (Jesus) is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

- What did these Pharisees know about Jesus?
  - Why did they believe that?  
[John 9:14](#) *Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.*
  - What did the man who was blind know about Jesus?
  - This man Jesus healed said, "I was blind, now I see." What conclusion would a reasonable person come to, when faced with this testimony.  
[John 9:3-5](#) *Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ... As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*
  - What conclusion did these Pharisees come to, when faced with this testimony.  
[John 9:29](#) *"We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man (Jesus), we do not know where he comes from."*
  - Why do you think Jesus called these Pharisees blind?  
[Matthew 15:14](#) *(Jesus said) Let them (the Pharisees) alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."*
  - Why is it foolish and dangerous to follow someone who is spiritually blind?
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