

come and see

Week 7: See
John 9:1-41

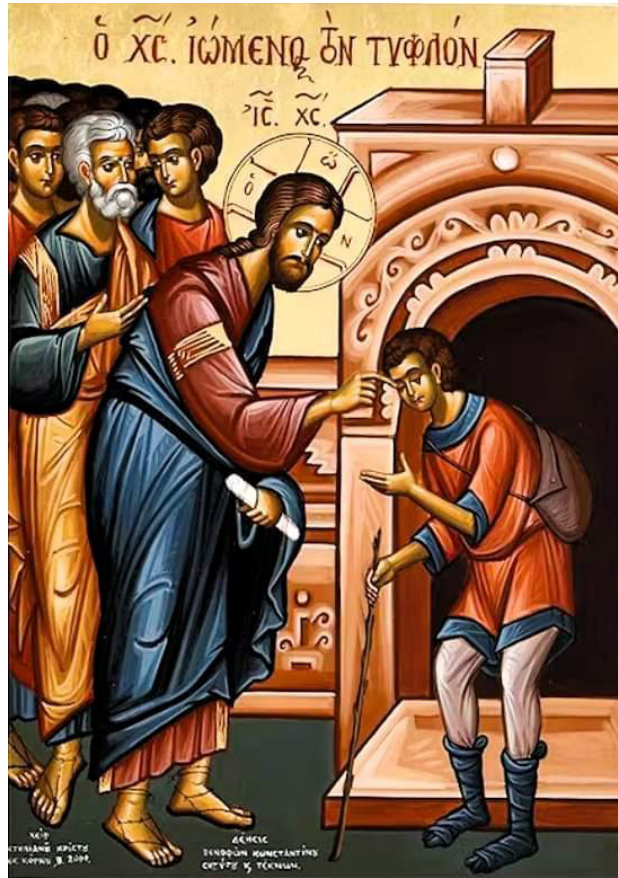


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Summary

In John 9:1-40, Jesus heals a man born blind, illustrating Jesus' power to bring physical and spiritual sight. After the healing, the man faces skepticism from the Pharisees, highlighting the tension between divine authority and religious tradition. This miracle (John calls them "signs") serves as a metaphor for Christ's mission to illuminate spiritual blindness in humanity. Just as the healed man recognizes Jesus' divine nature, we are called to acknowledge Christ's transformative power in our lives. As with many Jesus stories, there are numerous ways to learn from Jesus' ministry. This John 9 story symbolizes Christ's role in challenging societal norms and revealing deeper truths about faith, identity, social inclusion, and a challenge to assumptions about God actively smiting/afflicting people as a consequence of sin.

There is no doubt that Jesus has come to restore our sight. To help us see him, the world, and ourselves clearly. Or see for the first time!

(Other touchpoints between Jesus and 'bringing sight' are Matthew 9:27-30, Mark 8:22-25, and Jesus' declaration of his mission to "bring sight to the blind" in Luke 4.) Bringing sight seems to be a central piece of Jesus' work.)

continued below...

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

For you

1. What does it mean to you to have spiritual sight, and how can you seek it in your life?
2. Can you recall a specific moment in your life when you felt a significant shift in your understanding or perspective about faith? What factors contributed to that change?
3. A Spiritual Practice to try: Breath Prayers
 - a. Sit quietly and comfortably. Start by praying for God to lead you and guide you.
 - b. Close your eyes and breathe deeply and slowly.
 - c. With each inhale breath, pray "Spirit of the Living God."
 - d. With each exhale breath, pray "Help me to see."
 - e. Rest in the presence of the all-loving God. Stay open to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
 - f. After a while, simply end by telling God "thank you" for his ability to restore sight.

For your work

1. Question for you and coworkers:
 - a. What role has your faith played in overcoming personal challenges or obstacles in your life?
 - b. What life experiences have shaped your understanding of spiritual insight, and how have they influenced your beliefs?
2. Your work at Bethel is part of the mission of Jesus on earth to restore sight. How will this reality shape the way you do your work, engage co-workers, interact with folks outside of Bethel?
3. Pray for each other. Each of us is carrying some level of spiritual blindness in need of restoration.

For Students (questions to have in your 'back pocket')

1. Where are you interacting with the Gospel of John (if anywhere)?
2. How has God been helping you see God more clearly this week? This year?
3. How has God helped you to see yourself more clearly?

How is this resource working for you? How is God using it to form you? Are there ways we can improve it? How can we pray for you? If you've got questions or thoughts, we invite you to be in touch with us. Send us an email at campus-ministries@bethel.edu

[click here for the week 7 discovery bible study](#)



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