

# The Dilemma of Blindness

John 9

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- ❖ Chapters 7 & 8 go together as one account, presenting Jesus as the Light of the World and the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles; chapters 9 & 10 are also paired together in another significant presentation of the identity and mission of Jesus.
- ❖ This healing is the 6th of the seven signs that John presents to reveal the glory of Jesus (cf. John 1.14) “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (20.31), and is considered by interpreters to be a brilliantly crafted account.



# Three questions to understanding John's 7 signs

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- ❖ How is the glory of the One and Only revealed?

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth*

*John 1.14*

- ❖ How is the transition from law to grace (Moses to Christ) revealed?

*For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

*John 1.17*

- ❖ What blessings of grace are revealed?

*From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.*

*John 1.16*



❖ This account is structured like seven dramatic scenes; the questions in one scene set the stage for the next scene —

❖ the disciples' "sin and sickness" question

❖ the neighbors' confused questions

❖ the Pharisees' suspicious questions

❖ the parents' questioned

❖ the Pharisees abusive questions

❖ Jesus' salvation question

— ending with another dramatic confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees.



# What we need to understand—

- ❖ “Born blind” is our story—and the story of everyone who has ever lived.
- ❖ Only through the initiative and work of Jesus (grace) can we receive sight.
- ❖ Blindness comes in many forms: institutional, theological, structural, spiritual.
- ❖ Grace experienced that does not lead to confession of faith in Jesus before others is worthless—“*grace received in vain.*”
- ❖ “Lest we be “seeing but not perceiving” we must open ourselves to the scrutiny of Jesus to reveal our blindness to us.