



Gospel of John

2-12-23



- 1a In the Beginning – Love from Eternal Past
- 1b Come & See – Love Calls Forth Disciples
- 2-3 Everyone Who Believes – God Loved World
- 4 But Whoever Drinks – Love the Living Water
- 5 Pick Up Your Mat – Loving the Lonely
- 6 I Am **BREAD** – Love the **BREAD** of Life
- 7 He Sent Me – Love Father Who Sent His Son
- 8 I Am the **LIGHT** – Love the **LIGHT**
- 9 You Have Seen Me
- 10 I Know My Own
- 11 I Am the Resurrection

9:25 One thing I do know.
I was blind but
now I SEE!



Love the Blind

I am the MAN

John the Evangelist & Peter
by Albrecht Dürer (1526)

Healing the Man Born Blind
by El Greco, c. 1570

Those times in our lives where we ... **SAW** for the **First Time**
First Time for me ... about 7 years old ... *don't remember much*

2nd 1997 in route to
buddy's wedding

As an ADULT ...

Arrived at SUNRISE

Even at DAWN ...

Walking to first rail ...

Queasy tingling ...

AWESOME



What's the view from Mr. Blind Man **Healed?**

Aaahhh ... others are glad to see Mr. Blind Man *Healed*

Especially **TWO**

Momma & Pappa

Mr. Blind Man's

PARENTS

I suspect ... **ALMOST**
as happy as he

Which ... kinda
reminds of a song

Fly ... Freeee Bird

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by El Greco, c. 1570

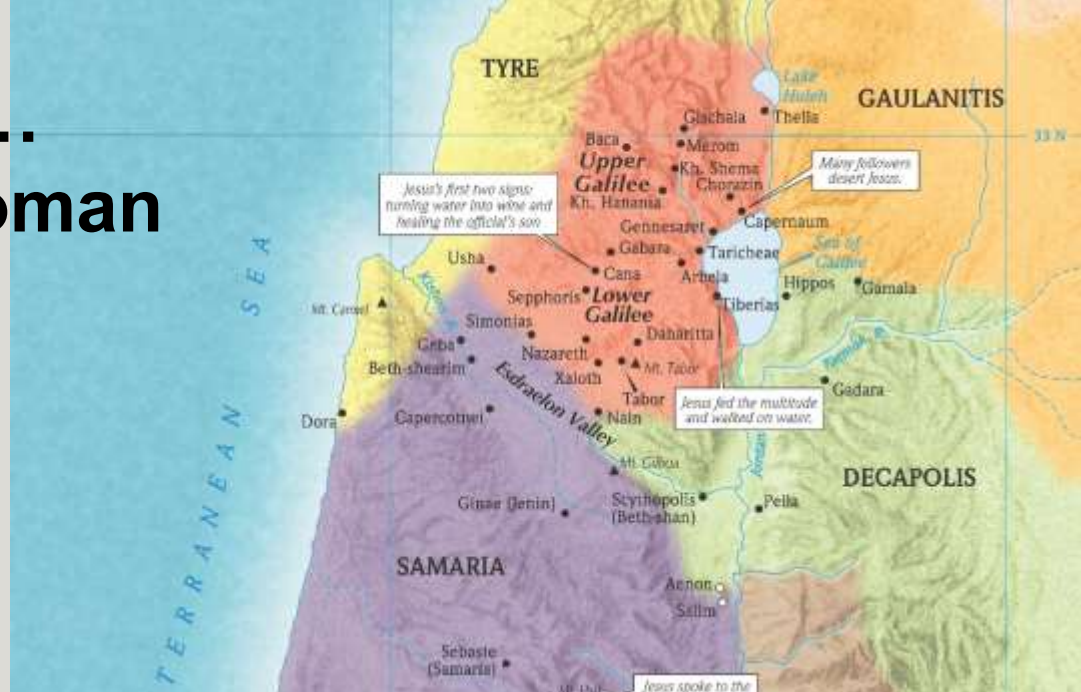


**John 8 – Jesus went to Mt Olives ...
Teaches in temple – Saves a Woman
Then declared he was the
8:12 “Light of the World.”**

**John 9 opens – Jesus strolling ...
Comes upon a Blind Man
Blind from Birth**

**We presume after Saving Woman
Harmony of Gospels ... Luke 10**

- ✓ **Jesus sends out 70 disciples**
- ✓ **Tells of Good Samaritan Story**
- ✓ **Visits Mary & Martha in Bethany**



Mount of Olives TODAY . . . as viewed from the Temple Mount
Bethany is just over this ... less than 2 miles farther EAST



Bethany, or Al-Eizariya, photo by Félix Bonfils, c. 1890

Al-Eizariya = “Place of Lazarus” ... *Lazarus* = “God will help”

Photo from 1940s



Healing a Man

BORN **BLIND**

We cannot

SEE

what that

meant to

Mr. Blind Man

Try as we may,

WE are **BLIND** to
the Magnitude to

HIM **Born BLIND**



Healing the Man Born Blind
by El Greco, c. 1570

**John 9:1 As Jesus went along
he saw a man *BORN* from *BIRTH*.**


2 His disciples asked him,

**“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,
that he was *BORN BLIND*?”**

**We gasp at that ... Did they *REALLY* believe that?
Is every ailment, deformity, misfortune from *SIN*?**

In the Law, Deuteronomy 5:9 reads:

**I am a jealous God, and I will bring the curse
of a father's sins upon even the 3rd & 4th
generation of the children who hate me.**



**This is hard
to take in
EXCEPTING
Christ Fulfilled
ALL the Law**

Do YOU believe the Bible ... God's Law?

Percy Shelley (1792–1822)
Premier English poet
“Ode to Liberty” 1820



portrait c. 1829 by Alfred Clint

1818 the Shelleys left
England to escape its
“tyranny civil & religious.”

Same generation as
American & French
Revolutions

Mr. Blind Man’s world ... Prisoner – Captive

- ✓ Ever under the Tyranny of Others, even of ALL
- ✓ Who never knew *LIGHT* or *Freedom*

So ... the inimitable Shelley opines ...

The Sun and the serenest Moon sprang forth:
The burning stars of the abyss were hurled....

But this divinest universe

Was yet a chaos and a curse ...

power from worst producing worse,

Ode to Liberty > view of TYRANNY’s History

Ode to Liberty > view LIBERTY’s Birth in Humanity

Ode to Liberty > view of FIGHT to SEE Freedom

Poem has 17 Stanzas, Each 15 Lines, for 255 Lines

Mr. Blind Man > From Captivity to FREEDOM

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Mr. Blind Man’s **WORLD** as Prisoner & Captive
✓ Ever under the Tyranny of Others, even of **ALL**
✓ Who never knew **LIGHT** or Freedom

So . . . the inimitable Shelley opines ...

Shelley Helps us see **LIBERTY** fighting **TYRANNY**

The spirit of the beasts was kindled there ...
And there was war among them, and despair
Within them, raging without truce or terms: ...
beasts warred on beasts ... worms on worms,

And men on men;

each heart was as a hell of storms.

Mr. Blind Man is helpless to **FREE** himself

Mr. Blind Man **MUST** submit to **ALL**

Mr. Blind Man will **NEVER** be **EQUAL**

Jesus explains ... a bit ... a little ... *VERY Little*

3 “Neither this man nor his parents ... but so that the works of God might be displayed in him

Almost as bad ... “Really, Jesus?” ... *REALLY?*

Born BLIND for *God’s Glory*—too much to swallow too much ... at first blush ... at first *SIGHT*

Does *NOT necessarily* mean GOD wanted that

4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me.

Night is coming, when **NO ONE** can work.

5 While I am in the world, I am the *LIGHT* of the world.”

Yes ... we could explore how how **LIGHT** reveals *TRUTH* to the World



NO ONE can work in the **DARK**

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Mr. Blind Man’s world ... Prisoner – Captive – Tyranny of ALL

... *the inimitable Shelley’s ODE to Liberty from TYRANNY*

Man, the imperial shape, then multiplied
His generations under the pavilion ...

Temple and prison, to many a swarming million

Were, as to mountain-wolves their ragged caves.

This human living multitude

Was savage, cunning, blind, and rude ...

Like one fierce cloud over a waste of waves ...

The sister-pest, congregator of slaves ...

Anarchs and priests, who feed on gold and blood

Till with the stain their inmost souls are dyed,

Drove the astonished herds of men from every side

Ode to Liberty for BLIND Man from TYRANNY

John 9:6 After saying this – *Light of the World*

6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.

7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam”
So the man went and washed, and

Came Home *SEEING*

8 His neighbors & those who had seen him begging:
“Isn't this the same man ... *bla, bla, bla* ...

But he himself *insisted*, “**I AM the MAN.**”

He—*Mr. Blind Man*—was to Many NOT VERY WELL *SEEN*



John 9:6 After saying this – Light of the World

7 ... he washed ... came home SEEING

8 ... “Isn’t this the same man ...

Some seriously doubted ...

You SEE ... You *SEE* ... in chapter 9 ...

Mr. Blind Man was NOT the only one who did *not SEE*

Many have SIGHT & LIGHT ... but cannot *SEE* ...

Mr. Blind Man ... to & fro ... begging for years ... a JEW

Apparently, it is okay to BEG on Sabbath ... *just not HEAL*

Mr. BLIND Man ... from his home to the FOUNTAIN ... and SIT

Beg all day—what *SENSES* increase as Mr. Blind Man BEGS



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**Mr. Blind Man’s world ... Prisoner – Captive – Tyranny of ALL
the inimitable Shelley opines ... of Liberty’s ORIGIN**

**Athens arose: a city such as vision
Builds from the purple crags and silver towers ...**

**Within the surface of Time's fleeting river
Its wrinkled image lies, as then it lay**

**One Sun illumines Heaven; one Spirit vast
With life and love makes chaos ever new,
As Athens doth the world with thy delight renew.**

**We reflect on Athens ... the First Democracy
Filled with Pagan Temples & Elegant Art**

But Mr. Blind Man ... never KNEW the MEANINGS

TOTALLY DARK to ART & Freedom’s *LIGHT*

John 9:7 Mr. Blind Man came home **SEEING!**

What was that moment like ...

Mud trickled down face ... he knew feel of WATER

Then ... for the FIRST time, he saw BLUE water

Eyes begin to focus, he matched the sound of
pool's fountain to WATER *pouring* ...

VERY First TIME ... SAW others **SEE** him—*looking*

Then ... in awesome extraordinary exquisite MAJESTY

He raised his head higher to **SEE** white puffs of clouds in an

Infinite Sky **LIT UP** by a Blinding **LIGHT** – the **SUNSHINE**

BLIND Man ... tears came from his eyes ... he was **WHOLE**



John 9:7 Mr. Blind Man came home **SEEING!**

Mr. Blind Man walks HOME ... **SEEEING!**

Very FIRST time—BEGINS to understand **WORDS**

Beauty ... Red ... Rose ... Child ... Bird Flies

Dirty Dirt ... Scar ... Smile ... 😊 ... Teardrops

Wind Blow Wheat Field ... Baker's Kindly GRIN

Trouble FINDING his way home ... he FEELS a house

Smells the sewage – SEES the sewage – Usual Path LIT UP



**THEN ... most extraordinary SIGHT of ALL ... FIRST TIME
SEES his Momma & Daddy**

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Mr. Blind Man's world ... Prisoner – Captive – Tyranny of ALL

A thousand years the Earth cried, 'Where art thou?'
And then the shadow of thy coming fell
On Saxon Alfred's olive-cinctured brow....

Of kings, and priests, and slaves,
in tower-crowned majesty;

That multitudinous anarchy did sweep ...

Whilst from the human spirit's deepest deep

Strange melody with love and awe struck dumb ...

With divine wand traced on our earthly home

Fit imagery to pave Heaven's everlasting dome.

Mr. Blind Man ... was he 10, 14, even 18?

When he **CEASED** to WONDER what people SEEN

When **HOPE** of freedom was not even a DREAM

John 9:7 Mr. Blind Man came home **SEEING!**

When his EYES meet Dad's & Mom's FIRST TIME

Tears FALL ... fall long and joyful

His Momma holds his FACE as she did **5,000x**

Mr. Blind Man FELT those hands **6,000x** *dreams too*

Then ... *First Time* ... he HOLDS Momma's FACE

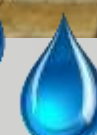
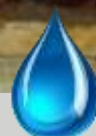
First Time ... **Eyes to Eyes** ... dearest to dearest

Momma & Daddy ... who loved ever & ever & **EVER**

ALL the YEARS ... ALL his accidents ... ALL the ...

To Mr. Blind Man that day ... Greatest Day ... Greatest Beauty

SEEING Momma & Daddy



Senses ... like Hearing ... like Touch ...

What other ... deeper senses ... *voice inflection*

The TOUCH of others ... or LACK of touch

Blind Man ... passes the Baker's wife ...

Oh, there you are, here's a piece of BREAD

Blind Man ... passes the Tailor ...

Oh, there you are, your coat, sir, needs mending

Blind Man ... passes butcher ...

feels a piece of fat thrown on his face – **DON'T STOP** HERE!

Many SAW ... a FEW helped ... Many did NOT SEE

“I AM the MAN” he said



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Mr. Blind Man's world ... Prisoner – Captive – Tyranny of ALL

Come thou, but lead out of the inmost cave
Of man's deep spirit, as the morning-star

Beckons the Sun from the Eoan wave,
Wisdom. I hear the pennons of her car
Self-moving, like cloud charioted by flame;

Comes she not, and come ye not,
Rulers of eternal thought,
To judge, with solemn truth,
life's ill-apportioned lot?

Ode to LIBERTY ... Shelley in 1820 ... 200 years ago

Mr. Blind Man ... never *FREE* from Birth

Mr. Blind Man ... Prisoner of ALL ... *ALL his LIFE*

Then the Questions ...

10 “How then were your eyes opened?” ...

11 He replied, “The man ... Jesus ... mud ...
go to Siloam ... I washed ... I could SEE”

12 “Where is this man?” ... “I don’t know” ...

Pharisees Investigate the *Healing* ...

You can hear them in their cabal ...

“There he is, again, that Jesus, HEALING on Sabbath!”

The gall of Jesus ... temerity ... audacity ... *How RUDE*

Jesus ... trampling CENTURIES of Tradition ...



John 9:13 Pharisees subpoena ... order ... **CALL**

13 They brought to the Pharisees **THE MAN**
who had been **BLIND**.

9:14-17 ... Mr. Blind Man repeats *his* story

9:17 Mr. Blind Man, “He is a prophet.”

18 Pharisees **DOUBT** he was *Born Blind*
INVESTIGATORS ask his Dad & Mom

19 “Is this *YOUR* son?” they asked.

“Is this the one you say was Born Blind?
HOW is it that now he can see?”

Parents **LOVED** their church, their Synagogue ... ***AFRAID***



John 9:20-21 Parents do not know how HEALED

21 ... “Ask him. He is of age....”

22-23 His parents were afraid of being
kicked out of church

24 2nd TIME ... Give God Glory **YOU SINNER**

25 He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not,
I don’t know. One thing I do know.

I was **BLIND** but now **I SEE!**

26-34 They bring up Moses ... throw him OUT

I suspect many—many—**FAIL to SEE** something important



John 9:25 “Whether he is a sinner or not,
I DO NOT KNOW. One thing I do know.

*I was blind but now I **SEE!***

Many FAIL to **SEE** something VERY important
Jews KICKED him out of church he never attended
Like many of YOU getting kicked out a Drug House
Or many of YOU prohibited from Bar or Strip Joint
Kicked OUT of place HE NEVER *Frequented* or was *Welcome*

Blind Man did **NOT** know **WHAT SIN** he did ... truly DID NOT

Jews could NOT SEE either ... refused to SEE ... **the LIGHT**

Jesus opened Mr. Blind Man's EYES .. **he SEES the TRUTH**



There are now ...

THREE Persons ...

who will **NOT** go to

THAT Church again ... *EVER*



Man Paralyzed 38 Years—Healed

Woman Caught in Adultery—Healed

Mr. Blind Man—Healed



Religious TYRANNY / TERROISM vs. Jesus' Love

What did Mr. Blind Man **SEE** ... *when healed?*

Mr. Blind Man **SAW**—*First Time*—who was **BLIND**

You know what ... even when Mr. Blind Man was
Blind from Birth

Even when he was Mr. Blind Beggar ... **he SAW**

He knew **THAT** Church did not want him ...

- ✓ **That** Rude Callous Person was no worshiper of Real God
- ✓ **That** Butcher who threw fat in his face – no REAL Jew

But Mr. Blind Man SEEING CLEARLY NOW ... SAW Love More

Loved **MORE** those who Loved Him **WHILE** Blind



John 9:20-21 Parents do not know how HEALED

21 ... “Ask him. He is of age....”

22-23 His parents were afraid of being
kicked out of church

Jews call on him, “You Sinner!” ... *so heartless*

25 He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not,
I DO NOT know. One thing I do know.

I was blind but ***NOW I SEE EEEEEEE!***

26-34 Jews twiddle fingers and throw him OUT of Church

Ohhh ... Mr. Blind Man can SEE NOW ... very CLEARLY



John 9:35 Jesus *HEARS*

**35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
and when Jesus found him, he said,
“Do you believe in the Son of Man?”**

Oh my ... after a LIFETIME in the DARK

Oh my ... after a LIFETIME in *TOTAL* darkness

Only ONE answer ... many of you, too, have said:

36 “Who is he, sir?” the man asked.

“Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

After SEEING the Baker – SEEING the Tailor – Butcher too

After HOLDING his Mother’s Face



37 Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact,
he is the one speaking with you.”

38 Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he
Mr. Blind Man *worshiped* him.

Anyone ... who was Born Blind ...

- ✓ Who never SAW Freedom or Liberty
- ✓ Who LIVED under the Tyranny of ALL Others
some good, some bad, many many indifferent
- ✓ Who at 18 GAVE UP on Liberty ... *Dreamed NO MORE*

THEN—a *stranger* ... for No Pay ... Freely ... with Heart

Give you SIGHT – You’d BELIEVE Him TOO



Jewish Leaders are confounded ... perturbed

39 Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.

***EXACTLY* what Jesus’ ACTS & Words have done**

40 Some Pharisees ... “What? Are we blind TOO?”

Well ... we all want to say, “Yeh, you ARE!”

41 Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you CLAIM you can SEE, your guilt remains.

WE SEE what Jesus said ... *I doubt the Jews grasped it*



John 9:8 His neighbors & others *doubt & wonder*
But he himself *insisted*, **“I AM the MAN”**

John 9:25 “Whether he is a sinner or not,
I DO NOT KNOW. One thing I do know.
I was blind but now I SEE!



Once FREED ... from TRYANNY of Darkness ...

- ✓ Mr. Blind Man becomes an *irrefutable* your **WITNESS** ★
- ✓ Mr. Blind Man becomes an *irresistible* your **ADVOCATE** ★
- ✓ Mr. Blind Man becomes a *life-indebted* your **DISCIPLE** ★

What about YOU?

How would gauge YOUR

