

The Man Born Blind
John 9

FAMILY TALK:
THE MAN BORN BLIND

by the Rev. Donald Rose

This story from John, Chapter 9, is about someone who was born a certain way, born blind. Let's first notice some things in the story.

How quickly a little argument was settled. Some people were saying that a young man was the very same young man that used to sit and beg. "Look over there. Isn't that the same man we have seen so often, sitting blind by the roadside, stretching out his hands?"

"Oh, no," said others, "It just looks like him." Well, when the young man himself spoke, it put a fast ending to the difference of opinion. He just said, "I am he." And that was that. No point in arguing any more.

Other arguments would soon follow. People talked about how he could have been given sight. Some said that the Lord did wrong by healing him on the Sabbath Day. Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such miracles?" They were divided on this subject.

The parents of the young man were afraid to get into the argument. The young man was old enough to answer for himself. The Pharisees tried to get the young man into the argument about whether the Lord had done wrong or was a sinner. But the young man said, "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Put yourself in his place. Wasn't that about the best thing that ever happened to him in his whole life? Never had he known what it was like to be able to see. Born blind, the only life he knew was that of a blind beggar. Now he could see. Wasn't that one thousand times more important to him than any argument? He probably said it pretty loud and with feeling. "One thing I know."

Good people would have been very touched by hearing him say that. But amazingly, the Pharisees were *still* arguing. He probably raised his voice even more when he realized they were not even paying attention to the great and grand thing that had happened to him. "Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind."

They cast him out, but it is said that the Lord "found" him. What a moment we have now. The Lord asks the young man, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" And the man says, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" Don't forget

that wonderful picture. A man is standing there, using those eyes so recently healed, and looking directly at the Lord and sincerely asking that question. And he got the answer—the answer that the One he was seeing at that moment and talking to was the One to worship. And he said, “I believe” and worshiped Him. This is a beautiful ending to a story that began with someone asking a question about someone who had been born blind.

Now, what about people who have the beautiful ending of getting to heaven but who are born somewhere they might never hear about the Lord? There is a chapter in the book *Heaven and Hell* that is all about people who are born where they will not be taught the truth. In a way, you could say they are born “blind.” There was a time before the Heavenly Doctrines were given when people really thought that if you were born where you could not learn about the Lord, you could not get to heaven. But *Heaven and Hell* tells us those people are “born” ignorant, and their not knowing is “not their fault” (318). It says, “No person is born for hell.”

The Lord provides religious beliefs even for people who have not yet heard about Him. For the Lord “is love itself, and His love is to will the salvation of all” (*Heaven and Hell* 318).

