



Something absolutely amazing has happened to me recently so I simply must tell you about it. In fact, it is so astounding that I feel like telling the whole world.

I was born blind. My parents must have been absolutely devastated when they realized that their little son was blind. Obviously, because of my lack of sight I am not able to learn a trade in order to earn a living so most days I sit at the side of the road, with my food bowl on the ground at the side of me. As the people pass by on their way to the temple, someone will occasionally put a bit of food in my bowl. Sometimes I hear a tinkle as a coin is dropped into the bowl. Many folk just pass by because they struggle to feed their own families, which means that some days my bowl may remain empty. I feel that doing what I can, by sitting at the side of the road in this way, it is a way that I can contribute to the income of my parents.



One day this man named Jesus came along the road with some of his followers. I heard them ask Jesus why he thought that I had been born blind and asked if it was because I had sinned or was it through the fault of my parents. What a question! I was most certainly interested as to what his answer might be, but, it was not at all what I was expecting him to say. He said that it was the fault of neither myself nor my parents but that I had been born blind in order that

the works of God could be shown. Well, what an answer; I was flabbergasted because what he said did not really make sense to me at that moment in time as I did not see how my being born blind could possibly show the works of God.

After Jesus had answered the disciples' question he then did the strangest thing. He did not ask me any questions at all, which is what I was expecting him to do, but, I was told that he had spat on the ground, mixed it into the soil, picked up the soft muddy bit and I then felt him rubbing it over my eyes. He told me to go and wash my eyes in the Pool of Saloam. I went to the pool and did as he had told me. What a surprise I had – You will never guess what happened next – **I WAS ABLE TO SEE!** I was able to see the people around me. I could see the clothes they were wearing. I could see their faces. I could see the temple in the distance. For the first time in my life I knew what the sky and the sun looked like. It was all so unbelievable.



People who knew that I had been blind were asking me how I was enabled to see and quite a crowd had gathered around me. When I told them what Jesus had done, they took me to the Pharisees. Now the Pharisees were not at all happy that this miraculous healing had taken place on a Sabbath Day because they felt that their rules/laws were being broken. They asked me to tell them what had happened but when I told them they were divided amongst themselves with some of them saying that Jesus was a

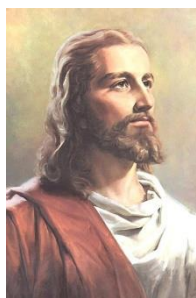
sinner because he had not kept the Sabbath and some saying that God would not allow a sinner to



do such a wonderful thing. What a palaver! They asked me what I thought about Jesus. Whatever was I expected to say? My simple answer was, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that I had been born blind and sent for my parents. My parents were asked, “Is this your son who you say was born blind? How is it that he can now see?” These questions put my parents into a very awkward position. If they said that Jesus had healed me, which was a sign of the expected Messiah, they would be excommunicated out of the synagogue which would mean that they would be cut off from many social relationships. Their fear of what the Jews might do caused them to answer, “He is of age, ask him.”

I was again asked what I thought about it all, my answer being, **“I was blind, but now I see.”** What else could be said? Sabbath Day? Jesus? The Christ? No-one could deny the fact that whoever he was, he had enabled me to see when previously I had been blind. I said what a marvellous thing had occurred. I am not a scholar but I said that we know that God does not listen to sinners but that He listens to people who worship Him. I was quite outspoken and gave my opinion that if this man was not from God then he would not have been able to do anything. They were very annoyed about my answer, saying that I knew nothing, was out of place trying to teach them and they put me out of the synagogue.



Jesus had heard that I had been sent out of the synagogue and came to find me. It was good to be able to see his face. I believed that he was who he said he was and I worshipped him.

The incredible thing about all of this is that Jesus not only opened my physical eyes but he also opened my spiritual eyes. How could I not believe that he was the Christ, the expected Messiah, when he was able to do such a wonderful miracle? I was once blind to spiritual things but now I see them. On the other hand however, the Pharisees have their physical sight, but unfortunately, their spiritual eyes are blind.

I may have been put out of the synagogue, but the double miracle that has happened to me has completely changed my life and it is all thanks to this person named ‘Jesus’.

Bible Reading: You can read about this in John Chapter 9.

“I was blind, but now I see.”

