



### Highlight Overview

- Jesus gave sight to a born blind person in more than one way.
- The miracle stirred up controversy between Jewish religious leaders and Jesus.
- ‘Some people could see physically but remained spiritually blind.

### A. The disciples' question: Whose Fault is it?

- The disciples: only concerned about the cause of the man's blindness.
- Jesus: concerned about the person and the purpose
- The response of Jesus: ‘That the works of God should be revealed in him.’
- Have we ever considered our strengths or weaknesses as opportunities for God's work?

### B. A Real Eye-Opener and a Shocker

- 
- If Jesus was to heal him in the first place, why did he ask him to wash it off in the Pool of Siloam?
- Pharisees charged: Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath – thus a violation of the Sabbath rest.

### C. The investigation

- Parents questioned: They were afraid of being excommunicated, socially and religiously, so they said, “he was born blind ... but we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age.” (v.21) –
- fear of exclusion often silences truth. That applies strongly today, too.

- The healed man: ‘... one thing I know: I was blind, and now I see’ (v. 25).
- His theology was still growing, but his experience was undeniable.
- Exasperated, the man asked them if they wanted to become Jesus’ followers too (v. 27)
- The leaders’ reaction: ‘We are Moses’ disciples’ and insulted him ... (9:28)
- ... “You were born in sin, and are you trying to teach us?” The leaders threw him out.

#### **D. 20/20 vision**

- When the man wanted to know more, Jesus introduced himself --- ‘He is the one speaking with you’ - The man believed

#### **E. Blind by choice**

- If the opposition really were the disciples of Moses, they would have believed in Jesus  
The Pharisees were not blind because they lacked evidence. They were blind because they refused the light they were given
- If they knew their Bible, they would have known the authority of Jesus and easily accepted him as Lord and Savior (Exodus 4:11; Psalm 146:8; Isaiah 42:6-7)

#### **Questions**

- How did Jesus view the man’s blindness?
- What convinced the man that Jesus was from God?
- On what ground did the Pharisees object to the miracle (vv 16, 22, 24, 29)?
- What did Jesus tell the Pharisees about their blindness?
- When might Christians today exhibit the Pharisees’ attitude toward a marvelous work of God’s grace or power?

# The Nag Hammadi texts and Gnosticism

The **Nag Hammadi texts** are a collection of ancient writings discovered in Egypt in 1945. They include:

- gospels,
- mystical writings,
- and teachings linked to **Gnosticism**.

Some examples are:

- Gospel of Thomas
- Gospel of Philip
- Gospel of Truth

Most were written in the **2nd–4th centuries**, later than the New Testament books.

## What is Gnosticism?

The word comes from the Greek word *gnosis* (“knowledge”). Many Gnostic groups believed:

- Salvation came through secret spiritual knowledge
- the physical world was inferior or evil
- spirit was good, matter was bad

Some even denied:

- that Jesus truly became human
- or that His physical death mattered.

## Why is this important for John?

Interestingly, the **Gospel of John** strongly emphasizes things that Gnosticism later struggled with:

- “The Word became flesh” (John 1:14)
- Jesus truly suffered
- Jesus physically died
- Jesus rose bodily
- He appeared first to women

John presents: real incarnation, real humanity, real relationship.

## Important clarification

The Nag Hammadi texts are **not “lost books of the Bible.”**

They are:

- later writings,
- often connected to specific sects,
- and were never widely accepted by the early church as Scripture.

They are historically interesting because they reveal what some later groups believed, but they lack the same historical and apostolic foundation as the New Testament Gospels.