



Thanks to Carole Curcio and Bruce Arnold for sending this picture to me; imagine, two recommendations in *one day*. Also, the title of the picture is important: "No Birds Today, but I know they're around". The way that man is squinting, maybe he has his eye completely closed? Something must be very wrong for he should be able to see at least the one directly in front of the lens. A saying comes back to me: *People see exactly what they want to see and ignore all the rest*. With these things in mind, I thought of Jesus' healing of a man born blind.

The Bible says...

## John 9 ( World English Bible )

**1** As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

**2** His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

**3** Jesus answered, "Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; but, that the works of God might be revealed in him.

**4** I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day. The night is coming, when no one can work.

**5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

**6** When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, anointed the blind man's eyes with the mud,

**7** and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he went away, washed, and came back seeing.

**8** The neighbors therefore, and those who saw that he was blind before, said, "Isn't this he who sat and begged?"

**9** Others were saying, "It is he." Still others were saying, "He looks like him." He said, "I am he."

**10** They therefore were asking him, "How were your eyes opened?"

**11** He answered, "A man called Jesus made mud, anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash.' So I went away and washed, and I received sight."

**12** Then they asked him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

**13** They brought him who had been blind to the Pharisees.

**14** It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

**15** Again therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I see."

**16** Some therefore of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he doesn't keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was division among them.

**17** Therefore they asked the blind man again, "What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

**18** The Jews therefore did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and had received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight,

**19** and asked them, "Is this your son, whom you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

**20** His parents answered them, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

**21** but how he now sees, we don't know; or who opened his eyes, we don't know. He is of age. Ask him. He will speak for himself."

**22** His parents said these things because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if any man would confess him as Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

**23** Therefore his parents said, "He is of age. Ask him."

**24** So they called the man who was blind a second time, and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."

**25** He therefore answered, "I don't know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see."

**26** They said to him again, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

**27** He answered them, "I told you already, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don't also want to become his disciples, do you?"

**28** They insulted him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

**29** We know that God has spoken to Moses. But as for this man, we don't know where he comes from."

**30** The man answered them, "How amazing! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

**31** We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God, and does his will, he listens to him.

**32** Since the world began it has never been heard of that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind.

**33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

**34** They answered him, "You were altogether born in sins, and do you teach us?" They threw him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and finding him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

36 He answered, "Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?"

37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen him, and it is he who speaks with you."

38 He said, "Lord, I believe!" and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, that those who don't see may see; and that those who see may become blind."

40 Those of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?"

41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

Jesus performed a notable miracle and that is wonderful thing. I am quite sure the blind man was a very, very happy man when Jesus healed him. But, not everyone was happy. The Pharisees were not, for they disapproved of Jesus for not keeping the Sabbath. After being thrown of the synagogue, the blind man was no longer happy, for he was disfellowshipped. His parents were not, because they were afraid that they would be expunged from the synagogue as well.

In all this, why so much unhappiness? The answer is that some people will just not accept something, even though the facts are right in front of them. The Pharisees could not believe that someone who practiced Judaism the way Jesus did could be righteous; HE MUST BE A SINNER! To them, even an unheard of miracle, something that was so wonderful, just could NOT be accepted as genuine.

Yet, I am sure that Jesus did not come into the world to please the Pharisees, but rather his heavenly father. By doing the will of his father, Jesus was proving he was the son of God. That proof led to a choice: accept Jesus for who and what he was or reject him.

That same “in your face” choice is before us today. Will we accept the plain truth of the Scriptures or not? Will we acknowledge Jesus as LORD of our life or not? Will we obey him in all things or not? The choice is both yours and mine; what will we do? Can we really look at the picture of the photographer and those birds and ask-- “No Birds Today, but I know they're around”.