

## Who is blind?

One day Jesus and his disciples passed a man who had been blind from birth. When the disciples saw him, they asked Jesus who was responsible for the man's blindness. Was it his own sin or the sin of his parents? Many people believed that suffering like this was a punishment from God. But Jesus rejected that idea. He said no one was to blame.

Jesus then did something unusual. He made mud, placed it on the man's eyes, and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The man obeyed, and when he washed, he was healed and could see for the first time in his life.

You might expect everyone to celebrate such a miracle, but that was not what happened. His neighbours were surprised and unsure what to think. The Pharisees were even more upset because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath, which they believed broke their religious rules. Instead of rejoicing in the miracle, they focused on the rule that had been broken.

They questioned the man again and again. Through this questioning we see his understanding of Jesus growing. At first he simply calls Jesus "a man." Later he calls him "a prophet." Then he suggests that Jesus must be from God. Finally, when Jesus meets him again, the man recognises him as the Messiah and worships him. Meanwhile, the Pharisees refuse to believe and eventually throw the man out of the synagogue. In the end, the man who was once blind now sees both physically and spiritually, while those who claimed to see remain spiritually blind.

This story challenges us in two ways. First, faith is a journey, and this journey is different for each person. Some people come to faith suddenly, like a light being switched on. Others grow slowly in their understanding over time. But for all of us, our relationship with the

Lord is something that grows and changes as we walk with him. As we grow and mature, we learn more about who Jesus is. We see things in new ways. Sometimes this can be exciting, but sometimes it can also feel uncomfortable.

Second, we are reminded to stay open to God's work, even when it challenges our expectations and leads us in new directions. When God acts in ways that challenge us, just like the Pharisees, we too can get a bit upset because it takes us out of our comfort zone.

Overall, this story invites us to be open to the work of God in our lives.