

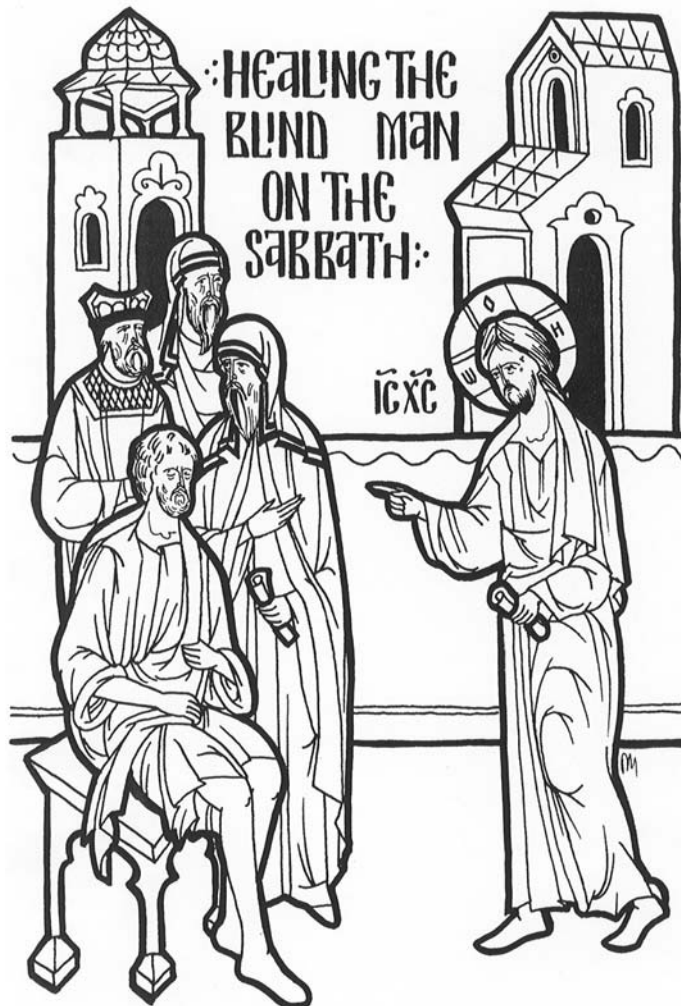
Jesus Heals a Blind Man

As Jesus was walking,

he saw a blind man. Jesus spit on the ground and made some clay. He placed it on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in a nearby pool. The man did, and he was cured!

People brought the healed man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus healed him on the Sabbath, when their laws said it was not right to do work. People did not believe that Jesus was from God.

The man who was healed was so surprised that they did not believe. He believed Jesus was from God. He became a follower of Jesus.



Thinking About God's Word . . .

1. What does it mean to be "blind?"
2. What did Jesus do to heal the blind man?
3. Why were some people upset with him for healing the man?
4. Have you ever seen something amazing?
5. God is amazing.



The Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Christian Education

gratefully acknowledges support from the Order of St. Ignatius which funds, in part, the work of the Department. The Archdiocese has also established an endowment for the Department of Christian Education. If you would like information on our present programs and future initiatives, and if you would like to contribute to the Endowment, please contact Ms. Ruth Ann Skaff, at development@antiochian.org.

Next week

Jesus Wants Us to Share His Joy With Us

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

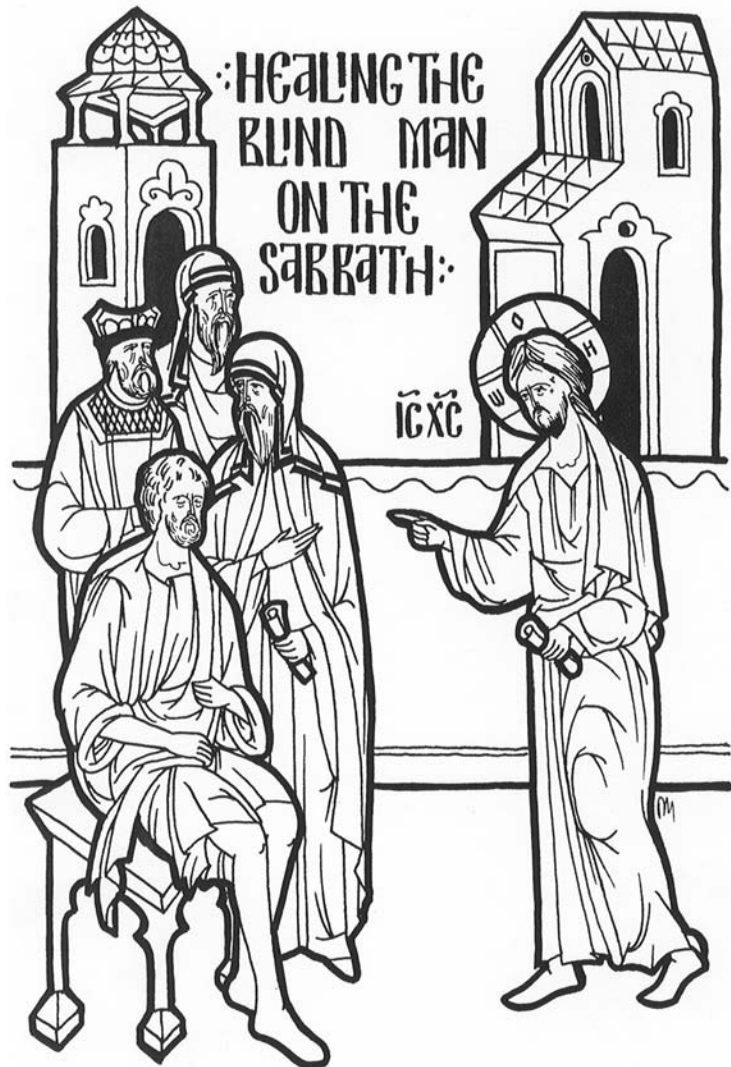
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he saw a blind man. Jesus spit on the ground and made some clay. He placed it on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in a nearby pool. The man did, and then was cured!

People brought the healed man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus healed him on the sabbath, when their laws said it was not right to do work. They asked the man who Jesus was, and he replied, "A prophet."

The people did not believe that Jesus had performed this miracle. They didn't want to believe that Jesus was from God. The man was surprised at their lack of faith. They threw him out of the synagogue.

Jesus found the man and asked him if he believed in the Son of God. The man asked who the Son of God was. Jesus said, "He is speaking to you." The man said, "Lord, I believe."



Thinking About God's Word . . .



1. Read the name of the icon. What day of the week is the sabbath?
2. What did Jesus do to heal the blind man?
3. Why were the Pharisees upset with him for healing the man?
4. Why didn't the people believe that Jesus had cured the man?
5. Have you ever seen something amazing in nature?
6. God created everything. God is amazing.



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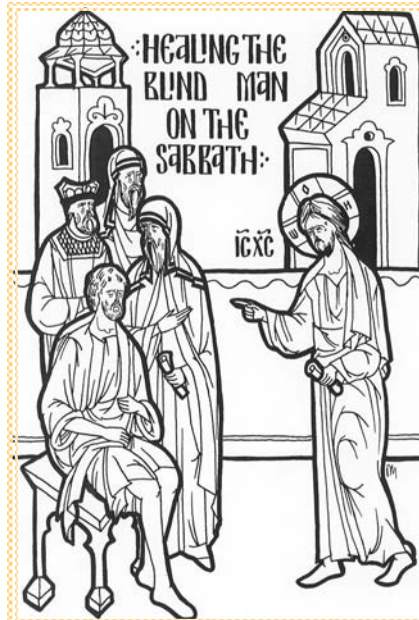
“How were your eyes opened?”

At that time, as Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Silo’am” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he”; others said, “No, but he is like him.” He said, “I am the man.” They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Silo’am and wash’; so I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such

signs?” There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age, ask him.”



So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?” And they reviled him,

saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped him.

Thinking About God’s Word . . . John 9:1-38

1. How do the neighbors react when the blind man returns from the pool able to see?
2. How would you react if this happened in your neighborhood?
3. Who would you go talk to about something like this? Why might you go talk to someone else about it?
4. Whom do the neighbors take the man to after he tells them what happened?
5. Why do you think they did that?
6. Do the Pharisees believe what the man tells them? Do they think Jesus is doing God’s work?
7. What does the blind man tell them should show that Jesus is sent by God?
8. What do you know about Jesus that makes you believe he is from God?



Healing of the Blind Man

At that time,

as Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Silo'am and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

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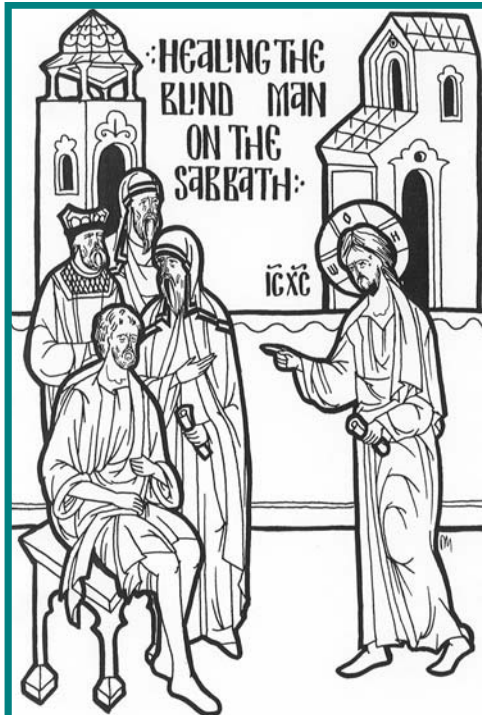
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Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

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So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise;



Focus questions

1. If you had a friend or relative who was sick for a very long time or who was born without a hand what questions might you ask God?
2. Why would you ask God these questions?
3. What questions do the disciples ask Jesus after they see the man blind from birth?
4. Why do you think they ask him this question? Is their question similar to your questions?
5. How does Jesus respond to their question?
6. What do you think his response means?
7. What does this response tell us about why difficult things happen sometimes? Do you think this is only true in the case of this blind man or can it be true today?
8. What does this suggest about how we can respond to difficult things that happen to us or to people we care about?



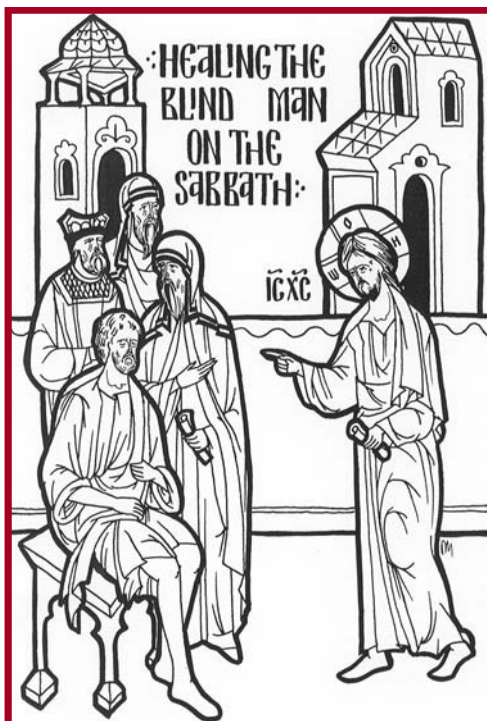
Next week: "I have glorified thee on earth . . ."

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Focus questions

1. Do the pharisees in this gospel believe the blind man when he tells them what happened to him?
2. What questions do they ask the man? What are they trying to figure out as they discuss what happened to the blind man?
3. As they discuss the matter they say that they know that Moses spoke to God. Who is Moses? How do you know about Moses because you know him personally and watched him live his life?
4. How do you think the Pharisees came to know that Moses spoke to God? Were they alive when Moses lived?
5. Why does the blind man believe that Jesus is from God? What proof does he offer to the Pharisees?
6. What do you think about his proof? Do you think the blind man’s reasons for believing that Jesus is from God are good ones?
7. How do you know that Jesus is from God? What reasons do you have for believing in him? How are your reasons for belief similar to or different from the people in this gospel?



week: “This is eternal life . . .”