



[John 9:12-31](#)

(12) "Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said. (13) They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. (14) Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. (15) Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." (16) Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. (17) Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet." (18) The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. (19) "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" (20) "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. (21) But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." (22) His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. (23) That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." (24) A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." (25) He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (26) Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" (27) He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" (28) Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! (29) We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." (30) The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. (31) We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.

Knowledge plays a part in the man's [healing](#); this theme is suggested by the fact that each of the parties claim both to know and not to know something. Since the claims and the reasons for them differ, the contrasts highlight their various types of knowledge. By their questioning, the Pharisees try to discredit the man's testimony, attempting to find a cause to brand the healing a fraud and to attack [Jesus](#) (verse 19). They imply that the parents should stop lying and come clean (verses 20-21). Yet, the parents affirm two facts: that the healed man was indeed their son and that he was born blind. They knew this, and they were not afraid to affirm it.

Conversely, they denied knowing how he came to see and who did the miracle. Why do they not acknowledge what they know of Christ's role in the healing? "They feared the Jews." They know that the leaders would excommunicate anyone who confessed Jesus as the Messiah. The parents simply did not want to get involved. They were afraid to acknowledge what had been revealed to them.

This is an accurate picture of many today. The truths of Christianity have been proclaimed to them—perhaps by parents, friends, or the church. Intellectually, they know and even believe these truths, but they will not admit them. They are afraid to acknowledge Christ for fear of the consequences.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Man Born Blind \(Part Three\)](#)

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