

#320 Healing Blind Men with Clay – Jesus and Men Born Blind

Key Understanding: The Lord ordained that Jesus Christ heal a man *physically blind from his birth* for the purpose of illustrating that *all men are spiritually blind at their natural births*. Only by being *born again* through Jesus Christ (John 3:3) can they be healed of their spiritual blindness.

John 9:1-11 (KJV) *And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.*

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

*5 As long as I am in the world, **I am the light of the world.***

*6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he **anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,***

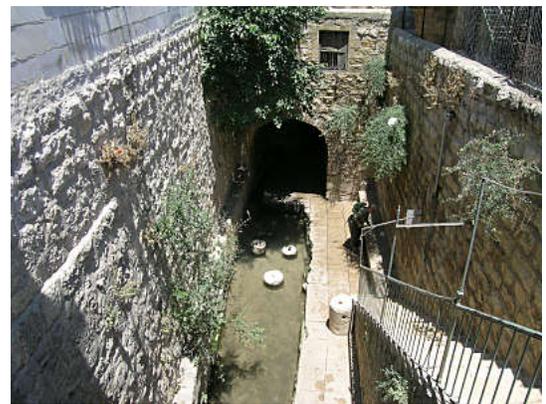
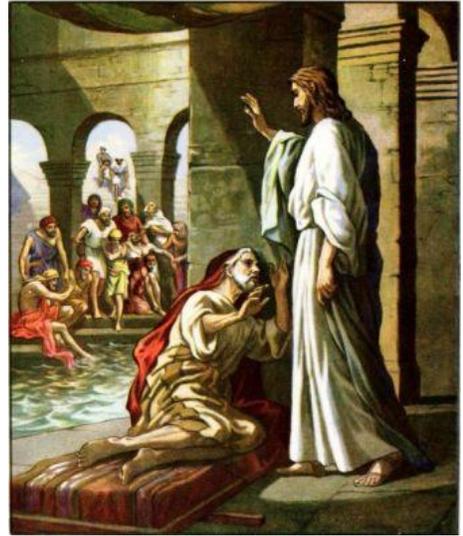
*7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) **He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.***

8 The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

9 Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.

10 Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

*11 He answered and said, **A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.***



The Pool of Siloam visited by Byzantine pilgrims in the past was probably the one next to Hezekiah's tunnel with that name (*pictured above*) – and commonly known as the historical Pool of Siloam – but may not have been the one visited by the blind man. A church was built next to this “Byzantine pool” by the empress Eudokia around 450 A.D., which was destroyed by the Persians in 614 A.D. In the summer of 2004, archaeologists were checking the area southeast of the traditional Pool of Siloam for a public works project when they discovered some large stone steps. Further excavations uncovered several flights of steps and a pool (*left*) that was in use during the 1st century A.D. Scholars believe that this pool – and not the one nearby traditionally identified as such – is the actual Pool of Siloam. (Just one corner had been uncovered, which is at the top of the picture to the *left*.)

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