

John 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

Analysis

The man's congenital blindness—'blind from his birth'—establishes that his condition was incurable by natural means, making the miracle's authenticity undeniable. His blindness also serves Jesus' teaching purpose: just as this man was born physically blind, all humanity is born spiritually blind. John's Gospel emphasizes sight/blindness as metaphors for spiritual perception, and this miracle becomes the longest sign narrative in John, emphasizing its importance.

Historical Context

In first-century Judaism, congenital disabilities were often attributed to sin (either the person's or parents'), a view Jesus explicitly rejects in verse 3. Blind beggars were common in Jerusalem, dependent on temple visitors' charity.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual blindness parallel physical blindness in your life?
2. What areas of spiritual truth do you need Jesus to help you 'see'?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ παράγων εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον τυφλὸν ἐκ
And as Jesus passed by he saw a man which was blind from
G2532 G3855 G1492 G444 G5185 G1537

γενετῆς
his birth
G1079

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