

John 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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,

Analysis

The spittle and clay mixture recalls Genesis 2:7 where God formed man from dust, suggesting Christ as Creator now re-creating. Unlike other healings, Jesus uses this method deliberately—the clay itself had no power, but obedience to Christ's word brings healing. Some scholars note clay on Sabbath was considered 'kneading' (forbidden work), making this act a deliberate challenge to pharisaical legalism that valued rules over people.

Historical Context

Ancient medical writers sometimes mentioned saliva in healing remedies. Clay from the Pool of Siloam area was considered ceremonially clean. By making clay on the Sabbath, Jesus violated Pharisaical tradition but not biblical law, exposing the difference between God's intent and human additions.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus sometimes use means to heal and other times speak a word?
What does this teach about His sovereignty?
2. How do religious traditions sometimes obscure rather than reveal God's mercy?

Interlinear Text

ταῦτα	εἰπὼν	ἔπτυσεν	χαμαὶ	καὶ	ἐποίησεν			
When he had thus	spoken	he spat	on the ground	and	made			
G5023	G2036	G4429	G5476	G2532	G4160			
πηλὸν	ἐκ	τοῦ	πτύσματος	καὶ	ἐπέχρισεν	τὸν	πηλὸν	ἐπὶ
clay	of	G3588	the spittle	and	he anointed	G3588	clay	G1909
G4081	G1537		G4427	G2532	G2025		G4081	
τοὺς	ὀφθαλμοὺς	τοῦ	τυφλοῦ,					
G3588	the eyes	G3588	of the blind man					
	G3788		G5185					

Additional Cross-References

Mark 8:23 (Parallel theme): And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

Mark 7:33 (Parallel theme): And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;