

John 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

'The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?' The healing creates identity confusion. Those who knew him can't quite believe the transformation. 'Is not this he' expresses uncertainty—he looks the same but is radically different. Transformation through encountering Christ produces similar reactions—people recognize continuity but wonder at change.

Historical Context

Blind beggars occupied fixed locations, becoming familiar to passersby. This man was known; his cure was public and undeniable. The community's confusion mirrors reactions to anyone dramatically converted—the same person yet fundamentally different.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What reactions do you observe when people are dramatically changed by Christ?
2. How does the community's confusion illustrate the reality of transformation?

Interlinear Text

Οἱ	οὖν	γείτονες	καὶ	οἱ	θεωροῦντες	αὐτὸν	τὸ
G3588	therefore	The neighbours	and	G3588	had seen	him	G3588
	G3767	G1069	G2532		G2334	G846	
πρότερον	ὅτι	τυφλὸς	ἦν	ἔλεγον	Οὐχ	οὗτός	ἐστιν
they which before	that	blind	he was	said	not	this	Is
G4386	G3754	G5185	G2258	G3004	G3756	G3778	G2076
ὁ	καθήμενος	καὶ	προσaiτῶν				
G3588	he that sat	and	begged				
	G2521	G2532	G4319				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 2:8 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.