

28.67b Man Born Blind (John 9:1–41)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to be put out of the synagogue*: “excommunication called ‘Cherem’ [this word means cursed and devoted to destruction as was Jericho] whereby such were anathematized, and cut off from the whole body of the Jewish church and people . . . and this struck great terror in the minds of the people. . . . [H]e that was under ‘Cherem’ might neither teach others, nor they teach him; but he might teach himself, that he might not forget his learning; and he might neither hire, nor be hired; and they did not trade with him, nor did they employ him in any business, unless in very little, just to keep him alive; yea, the goods which he was possessed of, were confiscated” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/john-9-22.html>).
- *Sabbath*: the seventh day (Saturday) on which no work was to be done

Scripture Passage (NASB):

John 9:1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” 6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came *back* seeing. 8 Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?” 9 Others were saying, “This is he,” *still* others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the one.” 10 So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.” 12 They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, “He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17 So they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” And he said, “He is a prophet.”

18 The Jews then did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, 19 and questioned them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?” 20 His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not 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 the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. 23 For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

24 So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner.” 25 He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 26 So they said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” 27 He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear *it* again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?” 28 They reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from.” 30 The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and *yet* He opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. 32 Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” 34 They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” 38 And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. 39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” 40 Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Introduction/Review:

Jesus had made some very clear statements to identify Himself as God. These statements culminated in ✓the most definitive declaration Jesus had ever made: “Before Abraham was, I Am.” When Moses had asked God for His name, God had answered, “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14). Now Jesus claimed this very name for God. He could do so rightfully, for He is God.

However, the Jews outright rejected the divinity of Jesus. They were so incensed by Jesus’ words that they picked up stones to throw at him, intending to do away with him. But because it was not yet Jesus’ time to be slain, He was able somehow to hide Himself among the people and get out of the Temple.

Story:

As Jesus and His disciples were walking in Jerusalem, they passed by a blind man who had been born blind. He was begging, for that was his only means of earning a living.

Sin

The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Notice that it was assumed that sin had caused this blindness.

Jesus’ answer did not confirm their reasoning, for He said, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents, but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” What was Jesus’ answer as to why this man had been born blind? [So that the works of God might be shown in him.]

Work

Jesus continued: “I must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” In other words, Jesus was saying that His time was short, but while He was living in the world, He was the Light of the World. ✓His speaking of work was significant since that day was the Sabbath. In addition, reiterating that He is the Light of the world foreshadowed His ending darkness in this story.

Jesus spat on the ground, stirred up that spittle with dirt, and made clay. This mixture He smeared on the man’s eyes with the command, “Go and wash your eyes in the pool of Siloam.”

Healing

Outside the city walls of Jerusalem to the southeast was the Pool of Siloam, where the priests had recently obtained water for the last day of the Feast of Booths. On that day Jesus had proclaimed, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me.” Now Jesus sent the man away to that same source of water.

Let’s pretend to follow this man. What is he saying?

[Hold hands in front of you as if being blind.] “Friend, will you lead me to the Pool of Siloam? Thank you. I know this mud on my eyes looks strange, but the man Jesus put it there and told me to go wash it off in the Pool of Siloam. I wonder what will happen when I do that. The clay feels funny on my eyes. I think it’s starting to dry. Are we getting close yet, friend? Oh, yes. I can tell. I think I can make it down the steps by myself. Thank you for your help.”

The man crawled down the steps one by one. He bent over, dipped his hand in the water, brought the water to his eyes, and washed the clay off his eyes. Then he opened his eyes. [Pause for effect.] He could see!

✓He jumped up shouting, “I can see! I can see!” He climbed back up the steps of the Pool of Siloam, ran and leaped down the street all the way back to his begging location, crying, “I can see; I can see!”

Neighbors

Neighbors and others who knew him as a beggar asked, “Isn’t this the fellow who used to sit and beg?”

“Yes, this is he,” said some.

“That’s right,” said the beggar.

“Naw, can’t be; this man just looks like him.”

“It is I! I am the one!” the man himself kept on saying. “I am the one; I am the blind man, but not I see!”

“If you are the man, how were your eyes opened?”

He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and now I can see—I received sight!”

They said to him, “Where is He?”

He answered, “I don’t know,” for Jesus had removed Himself from the place where He had met the blind man.

Pharisees

Perhaps the fact that this healing took place on the Sabbath is the reason why the neighbors and others brought the man to the Pharisees. Maybe it was such a stupendous event that they thought the Pharisees needed to be informed. Rather than rejoice in the deliverance of this poor fellow, the Pharisees questioned and accused him. [✓harshly] “How did you receive your sight?” they demanded.

The man replied, “Jesus applied clay to my eyes; I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees grumbled, “This Jesus is not from God because He does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others were saying, “How can a sinner perform such signs?”

So they said to the blind man again, “Since He opened your eyes, what do you have to say about Him?”

“Oh, He is a prophet,” answered the man.

That was not the answer the Jews wanted to hear. They said, “We simply cannot believe that you who now see was born blind. Who are your parents? We will send messengers to have them come to us.”

Parents

When the parents came, they were questioned: “Is this your son whom you say was born blind?”

His parents answered, “We know this is our son, and we know he was born blind.”

“Then, how does he now see?” demanded the Jews.

“How he now sees we do not know. Who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age and can speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be Christ (the long-awaited Messiah) was to be put out of the synagogue. Those parents did not want to be excommunicated.

Pharisees again

A second time the Jews called the man who had been born blind. They said, “Give glory to God; we know that this man Jesus is a sinner.”

Listen to the wise answer of this healed man: “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know. But one thing I do know: though I was blind, now I see.”

So they said to him, “What, again, did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?”

✓Perhaps impatiently, the man answered, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?” (Bravo! Mr. Formerly Blind Man!)

“Humph!” those Jews reviled. “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we don’t even know where He is from!”

Answers

“Well, here is an amazing thing—that you do not know where He is from,” answered the man, “yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners. But if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, God hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” (Bravo! again!)

The Pharisees then accused the man, as the disciples had done, of sin: “You were born entirely in sins, and do you think you can teach us? ✓You are now anathema; you are put out of the synagogue!”

✓I imagine news of this man’s expulsion from the synagogue spread like wildfire throughout Jerusalem. Jesus heard the news; so He found the man. “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He asked.

Belief

The man answered, “Who is He, Lord, so that I may believe in Him?”

Jesus said, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one now talking with you.”

“Lord, I believe!” replied the man, and he worshiped Jesus.

Judgment

Then Jesus said to the people near Him, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and that those who do see may become blind.”

Some Pharisees nearby heard these words and asked Jesus, “We are not blind too, are we?”

Jesus answered, “If you were blind, you would ✓repent and have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ you are blind and your sin remains.” This means that those who think they are right with God because of their goodness are, like the blind, lost and without God. Those who acknowledge their sin and their need for salvation come to Christ and are saved—they can see. Which are you?

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God:

He healed a man born blind—the very first time this had ever been done (John 9).

He said He is the Light of the World (John 9:5).

He told the man to believe on the “Son of Man” (John 9:35).

The blind man worshiped Jesus (John 9:38).

He said He would judge the world—blind would see and the seeing would be blind (John 9:39).

- Bad things sometimes happen because of sin, but that is not the only reason. Sometimes difficulties come in order to glorify God.
- Learn to speak up for Jesus and His cause, even when threatened.

Activities:

- Play dough: face with closed eyes
- Sing “Made to See” found below or on the Songs page at teachingthebibletochildren.org.
- Give students the Braille alphabet found below and ask them to write messages in Braille.
- Blindfold students and have them identify items by hearing, tasting, feeling, smelling. Sense/Item: hear/car keys, taste/snack, feel/fabric, smell/crayons (Nancy Ganz, *Herein Is Love Commentary Series: Genesis, A Commentary for Children*, Shepherd Press, 2002).
- Practice leading a blindfolded person who holds the arm of the “seeing” person. Gently walk, turn, and stop in order to show how the blind person depends on the seeing one. Or try tapping one’s way, blindfolded, with a yardstick.
- Review questions: (Game: Print the page found below of statements made by the man born blind to the Pharisees. Cut the statements apart. A student who answers a question correctly may read the statement and place it in a pocket chart.)
 1. How long had the man been blind? [He was born blind.]
 2. Why did the disciples think the man was born blind? [Because either he or his parents had sinned.]
 3. What did Jesus say was the reason for the man’s being born blind? [“So that the works of God might be displayed in him.”]
 4. How did Jesus heal the man? [Made clay, spread it on the man’s eyes, told him to wash eyes in the Pool of Siloam.]
 5. On which day of the week did Jesus heal the blind man? [The Sabbath.]
 6. To whom did the neighbors and others bring the man? [To the Pharisees.]
 7. What did the parents answer when asked whether the man was their son, whether he had been born blind, and how he was healed? [“He is our son; he was born blind; we don’t know how he was healed; ask him for he is of age.”]
 8. Why did the parents not say how the man was healed? [For fear of being put out of the synagogue.]
 9. Who was put out of the synagogue? [The man born blind.]
 10. What did the man do when he learned Jesus is the Son of Man? [He said, “Lord, I believe,” and worshiped Jesus.]

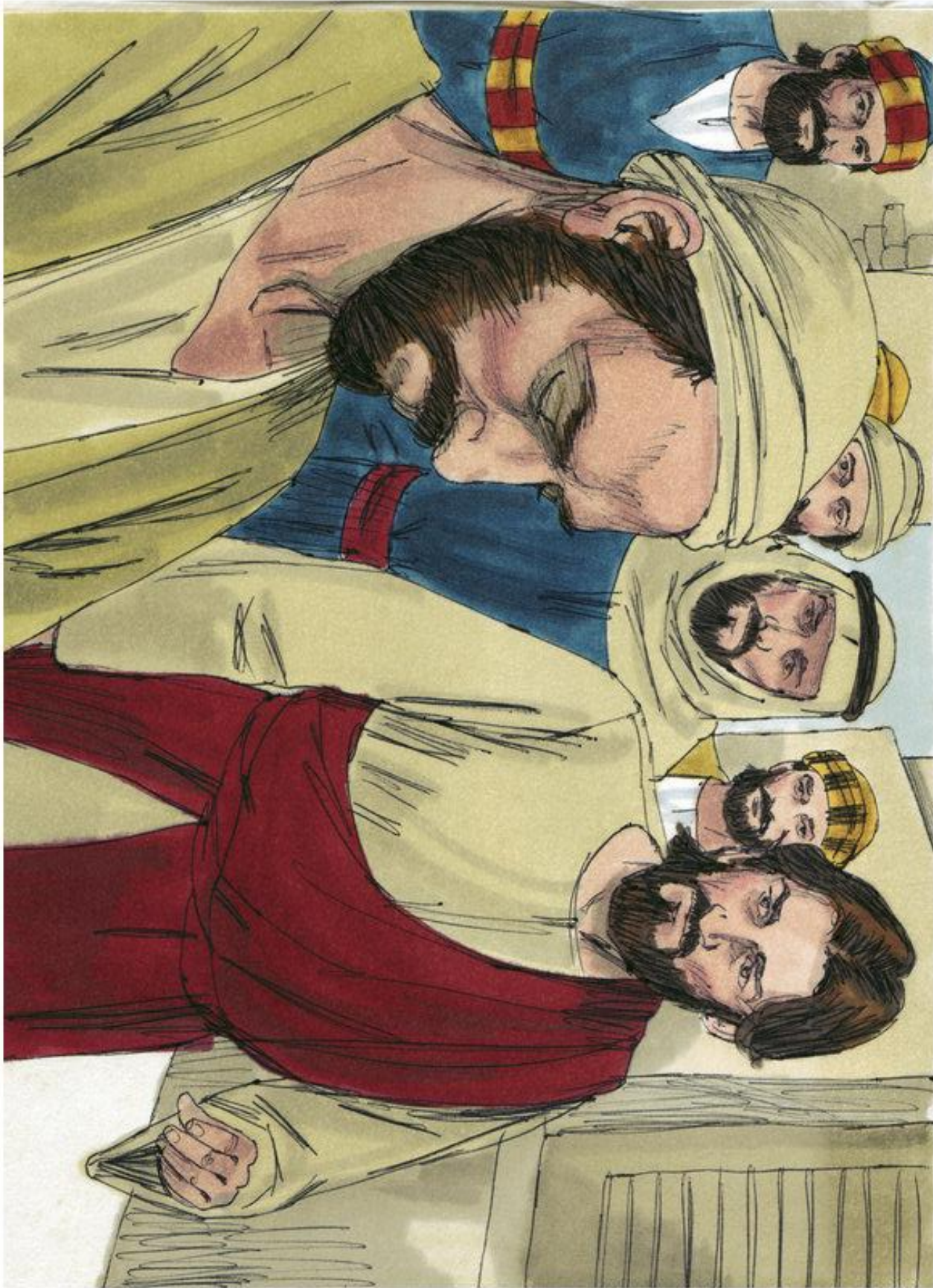
Memory Verse[s]:

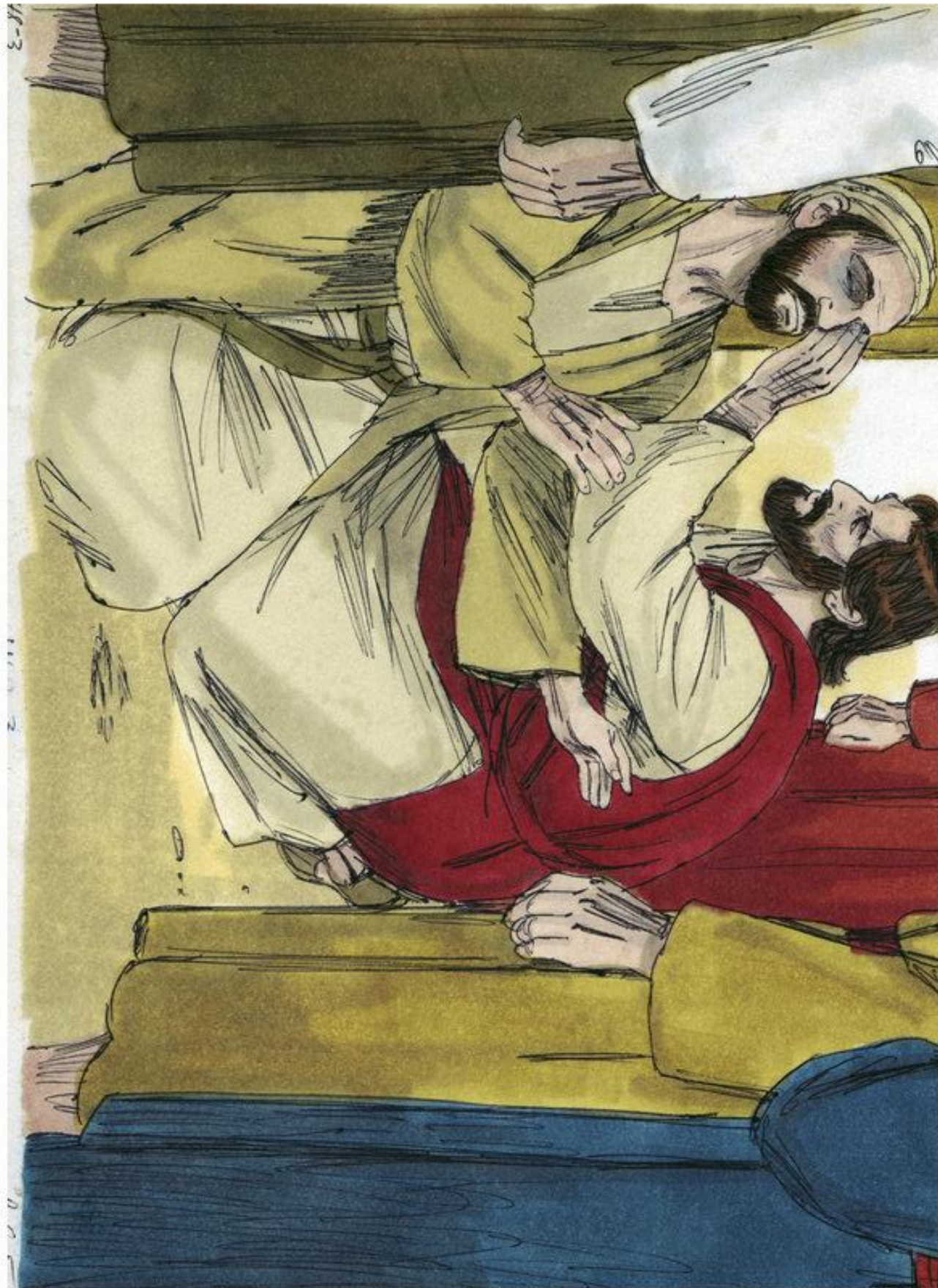
- John 9:4—We must work the works of Him who sent [Jesus] as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

Handwork:

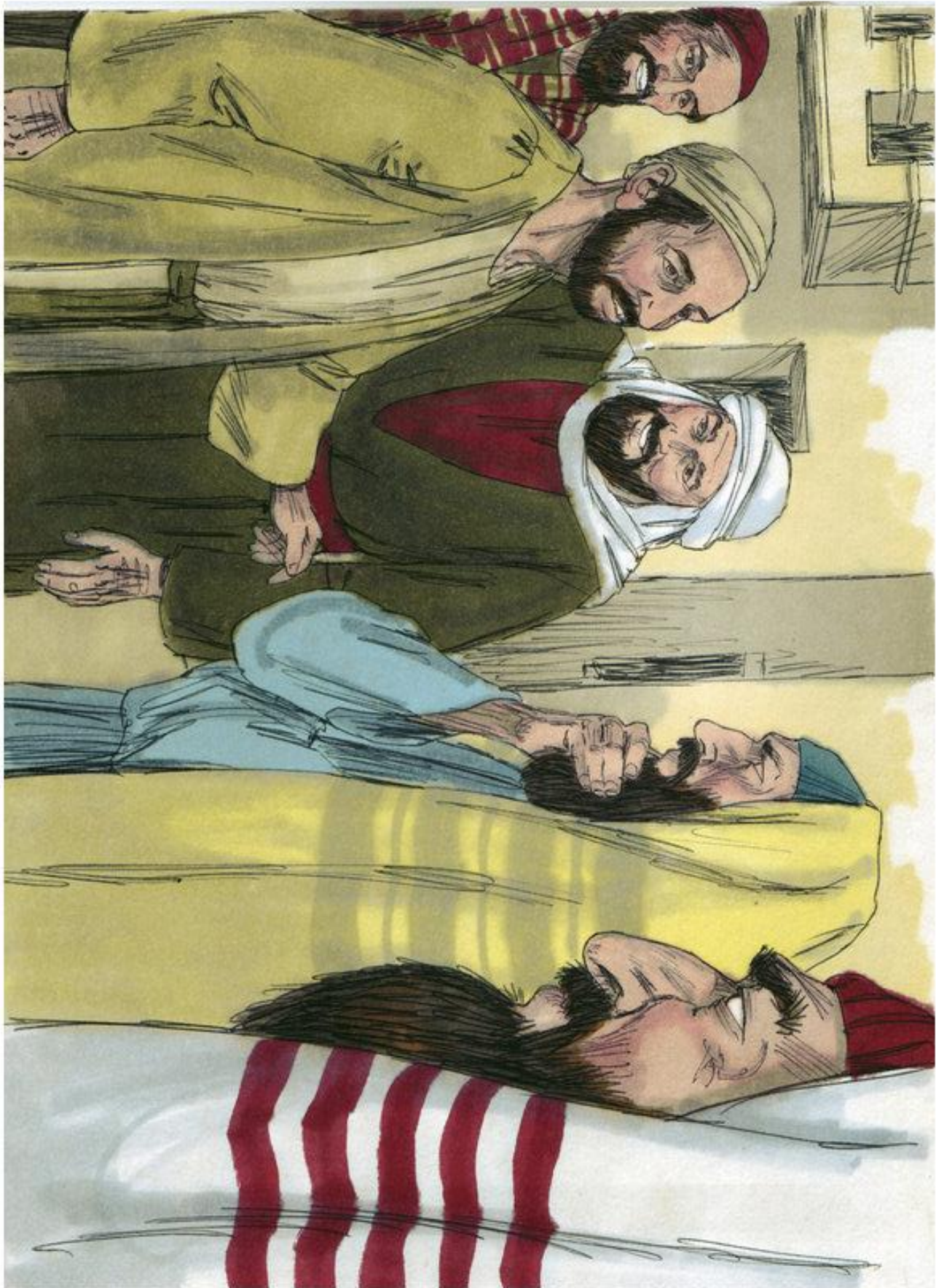
- Color the coloring page found below. Glue a little dirt to the eye of the blind man.

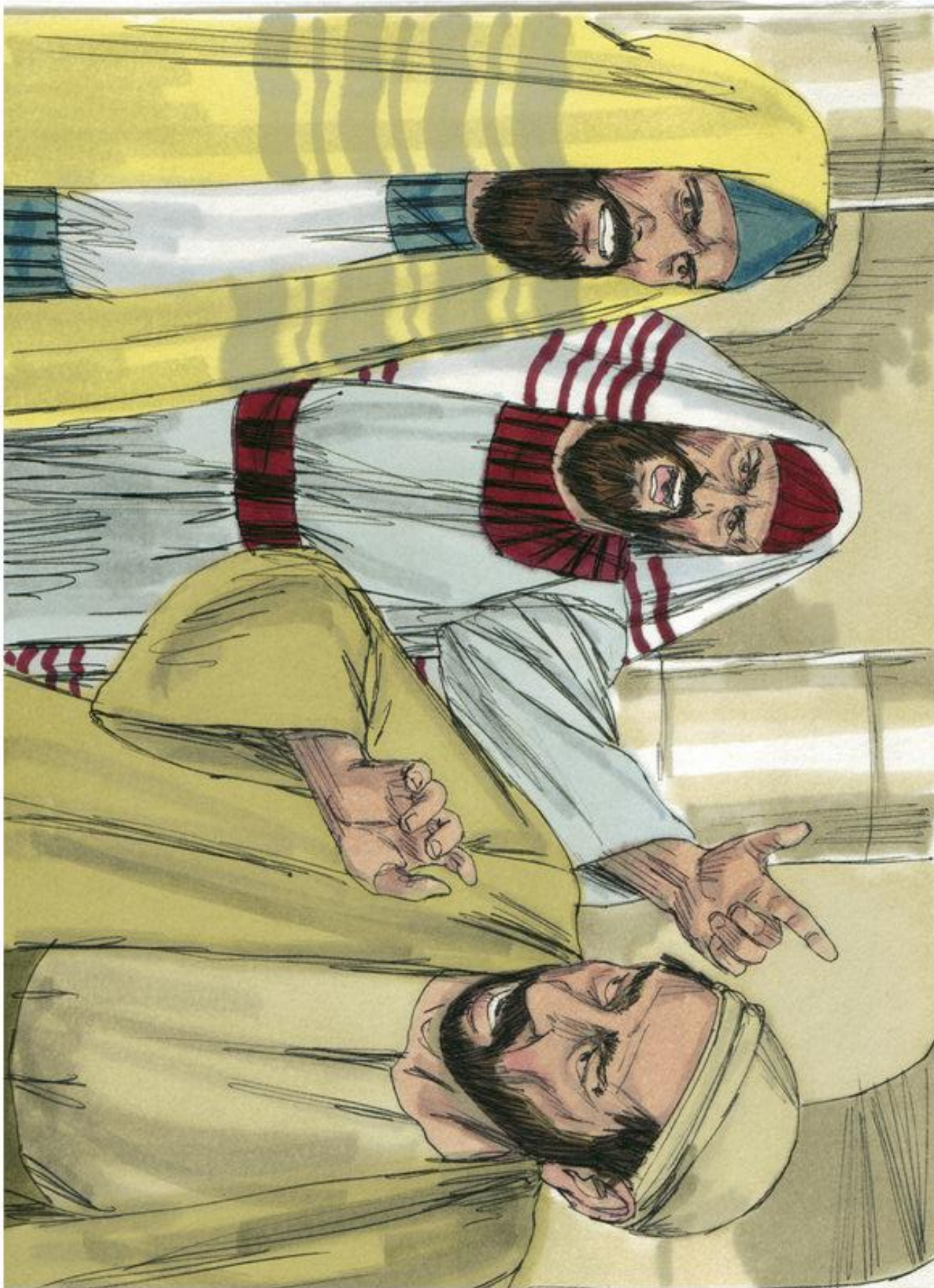
**to be cast out of
the synagogue
Sabbath**







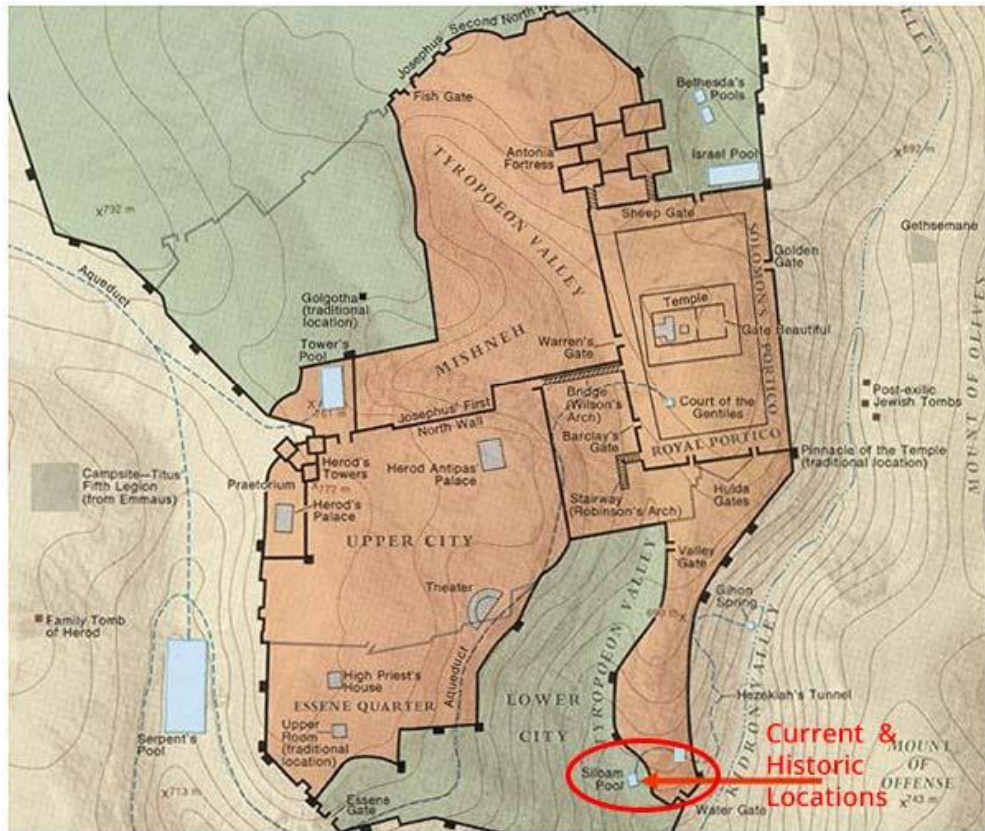




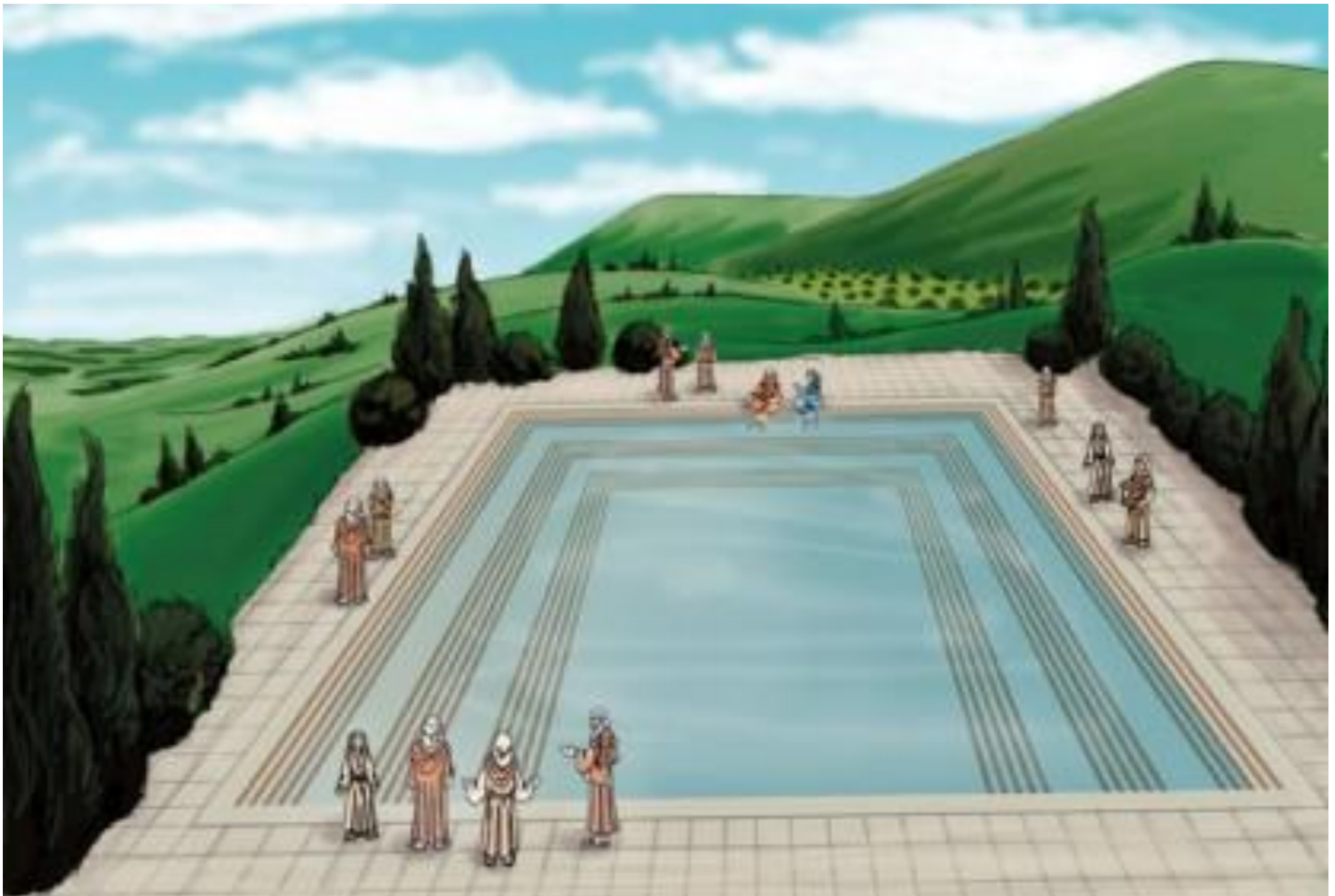




The Pool of Siloam of Jesus' day was discovered in 2004. Location is probably where the orchard is in this photo (<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/siloam-pool/>).



<https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-qa/qa-archives/question/what-significant-about-pool-siloam-in-john9-7/>



<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/the-siloam-pool-where-jesus-healed-the-blind-man/>

28.67b

Made to See

Marilyn Alexander

Marilyn Alexander

1. A man born blind was made to see. Nev - er in

2. The whole world's born blind. In sin they can't see how God pro -

all of his - to - ry had a man born blind been made to see,
vides sin's rem - e - dy un - til Je - sus o - pens their eyes to see.

But Je - sus healed him and set him free.
Then they be - lieve him and are set free.

“He is a prophet.”

“He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

“Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

“I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear *it* again?”

“You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?”

“Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and *yet* He opened my eyes.

“We know that God does not hear sinners.”

“If anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.”

“Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.”

“If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

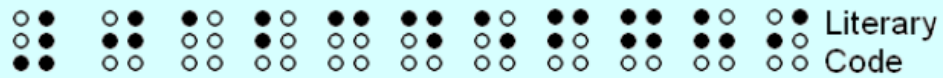


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NUMBERS



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0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

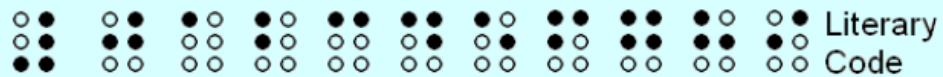


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