

Samuel is sent by God to pick a new King. He goes to a little town, Bethlehem 12 miles outside the BIG TOWN, Jerusalem, But it is not the oldest son of Jesse, which everyone would have expected. Nope. None of the seven older sons. Instead it's the YOUNGEST—who has the lowest job, tending sheep. Again God chooses the LEAST likely. Even Samuel couldn't figure it out. And he was a Prophet, not just a normal person like us. He still did what the Lord told him.

The PSALM for today is the Good Shepherd Psalm. We all know it. We hear it at funerals all the time. BUT do you know that in Palestine the Shepherd walks ***BEFORE** THE SHEEP, not AFTER them to keep them in line? (As you probably imagined it) No, the Shepherd walks through the town, singing, and the sheep file out of the individual houses, *recognize his voice* and *follow him* out and up to the **GREEN PASTURES**. **"My sheep know my voice."** said Xt. {more on May 3}

Gospel The Blind Man

John's gospel is not a step-by-step, chronological account of the life of XT. Instead John uses an incident to illustrate his Theological Point. That is, John constructs a **discourse**.

In today's discourse, John is talking about **SPIRITUAL Blindness**. The physical blindness of the man who was cured is just an allegory for those, like the Pharisees, who can't or won't allow themselves to see.

There are always those who try to put God in the Box they construct! The blind man, doesn't care to argue about the "box"; he knows that he can SEE, which means Jesus is a A Prophet.

John uses "Jews" because John wrote his Gospel after 70 AD when Xtians were excluded from the Synagogue and after the Romans had destroyed Jerusalem. But even before then the Pharisees were INTERESTED in excluding those they didn't deem worthy. An attitude of some today. They said: "You were born totally in sin"—as if that answers everything. . . . you do not know? Remember people thought ILLNESS was a punishment for sin. Some even today think that. OR they think financial success is a reward from God, a proof that I AM GOOD!

*Then the **blind man**, who truly does SEE, gives them the reason why they should see that Jesus is the XT! . . . he opened my eyes, the eyes of a person born **blind**.*

The message: We are all 'born' blind. We have to choose to see or not.

Paul to Ephesians: You were once **darkness**, but now you are **light** in the Lord.
. . . arise from the **dead**, and Christ will give you **light**."

John and PAUL contrast: Seeing to being **Blind**; **LIGHT** to **Darkness**. Their message is:
XT the LIGHT of the World will overcome the **DARKNESS** of the World.

Blindness was a BIG problem in those days, and it is still around today. My cousin Ed, has been blind for most of his now 90 years. That has not prevented him from becoming an attorney, playing music and cards, attending Mass every Sunday, and doing good. WHY? His life is 'illuminated' by his strong Catholic faith. Helen Keller overcame her two strikes, blind and deaf, through her strong faith.

The Pool of Silóam. {Silóam}

For years the Rationalists said:

If the Pool of Silóam was so important, why haven't we found it?

Well, It WAS found! In 2004! but after I was in Israel!

Here following are videos. Proof of the truthful basis of the Bible Story.

On the NET use **Caution!!**

An anecdote: A few years ago some boys came into my room at the Xtian School all excited:

Mr. Weaver, the Pope just said he didn't believe that Christ rose from the dead!

"Guys, you must be mistaken. I can't believe that." They said together: "We saw it on the NET!"

Sure that it had to be TRUE since it was on the NET.

"Show me." They went to my classroom computer and pulled it up. In the video the Pope said:

IF Christ did not rise from the dead, what we are doing is foolish and worthless. See how they saw what someone said the Pope said and **uncritically** believed it.

Now in anything on religion or the Bible, which you see on the Net, you must be careful. There are all kinds of kooks with crazy ideas. YOU have to be able to **evaluate** them.

The following is Archaeological evidence: an article from a respected scholarly journal:

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

A video of the RECENTLY uncovered site; discovered only in 2004.

So I didn't see it in 2000 when I was in Israel.

There were other pools build later, [the pic below]

but the one in this video is the Pool of Siloam from the time of XT.



A picture of a later pool. The one I saw in 2000.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vi5T9OIlxik>

This next site and video give the **Jewish Rabbinical background** to the story of the Blind Man.

I DIDN'T KNOW THIS BEFORE.

Very interesting. Shows the hidden meaning of the healing, spit, and Silóam. Hidden from US today, but clear to the Jews of Jesus' day, who were all hyped for the coming of the Messiah!

The Jews of Jesus' day, certainly got John's point.

As I read the Rabbinic opinion, I could understand the ideas in the article.

(If any of you don't understand it and want more explanation about WHY, email me.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCmNdwBaEy8>

Silóam means **SENT**. So Jesus is saying "I am sent by my Father"

And the Blind man is "sent".

—to take a message perhaps? To US?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L84UDtQiGTg>