

Like what?

BYSTANDER
JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH



*But **these** are written **that** you may **believe**
that Jesus **is** the Messiah, the Son of God,
and that **by believing** (by faith in **Jesus**)
you may have **life** in his name (**Him**).*

John 20: 31 NIV

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JOHN'S GOSPEL: SEVEN SIGNS

1. **The Wine Maker:** Six Stone Jars and a Nudge (John 2: 1-12)
2. **The Choreographer:** Long Distance Healing (John 4: 43-54)
3. **The Rule Breaker:** It's Never Too Late (John 5: 1-15)
4. **Lord Algebra:** $5 + 2 = 5,000$ w/R 12 (John 6: 1-15)
5. **The Water Walker:** Faith is Spelled R.I.S.K (John 6: 16-24)
- **The Eye Opener:** Never Say Never (John 9: 1-34)
7. **The Grave Robber:** Punctuating His Power (John 11: 1-44)
- **Easter Invitation to Believe:** What do you believe?

*As he went along, he saw a man **blind** from **birth**.
His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who **sinned**,
this man or his parents, **that** he was born **blind**?”
“**Neither** this man nor his parents **sinned**,” said Jesus,
“but this happened **so that** ...”*

John 9: 1-3a NIV

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*... the **works** of God might be **displayed** in him.
As long as it is **day** (Sabbath or not),
we must do the **works** of **him** (Father) who sent me.
Night is coming, when no one can work.
While **I** (Jesus) am **in the world**, I am the **light** of the world."*

John 9: 3b-5 NIV

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*After saying this, he (Jesus) spit on the ground,
made some mud with the saliva and put it on the man's eyes.
"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam."
So the man went and washed, ...*

John 9: 6-7a NIV

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The blind man chose to **trust**
someone he could not **see**
based on **rumors** (testimony).

He **chose** (decided)
to **walk** by **faith**
and **not** be **sight**.

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... and *came home seeing*. His *neighbors* and those who had formerly *seen him* begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only *looks* like him."

But *he* himself said, "I *am* the *man*."

John 9: 7b-9 NIV

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"How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it in my eyes.

He told me to go to Siloam and wash.

So I went and washed, and then I could see."

"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.

John 9: 10-14 NIV

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Will He (Jesus) never learn?

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Therefore the *Pharisees* also asked him
how he had received his *sight*.
“He put *mud* on my *eyes*,” the man replied,
“and I *washed*, and now I *see*.”
Some of the Pharisees said,
“This *man* is not from God
for he does not *keep* the *Sabbath*.”
But *others* asked,
“*How* can a *sinner* perform such *signs*?”
So they were *divided*.

John 9: 15-16 NIV

We **all** have a **God box!**

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*Then they (Pharisees) turned again to the blind man,
“What have **you** to say about **him** (Jesus)?*

*It was **your** eyes he opened.”*

*The **man** (previously blind man) replied,*

*“**He** (Jesus) is a **prophet**.”*

John 9: 17 NIV

"They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for his parents.

"Is this your son?" they asked.

"Is this the one you say was born blind?

How is it that now he can see?"

"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know.

Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself."

his parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders who already decided that anyone who acknowledged

Jesus was the Messiah

would be put out of the synagogue. ...

John 9: 18-22 NIV



No room in their God box.

No room in their theology.

No room in their worldview.

The Pharisees were blinded by their assumptions
and refused to see anything that didn't fit
in their God box (willfully blind).

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A *second* time they summoned the man who had been blind.

“Give *glory* (credit) to *God* by telling the *truth*,” they said.

“*We know* this man is a *sinner*.”

He replied,

“Whether he is a *sinner* or *not*, I don’t know.

One thing I *do know*.

I was *blind* but now I *see!*”

John 9: 24-25 NIV

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You don't have to understand
everything
before you believe
something.

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Then they asked him, "What did he do to you?

How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I told you already and you did not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again?

Do you (Pharisees) want to become his disciples too?

Then they hurled insults at him and said,

You are this fellow's (Jesus) disciple!

We are the disciples of Moses!

*We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow,
we don't even know where he came from."*

John 9: 26-29 NIV

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They were **willfully blind**.

They **refused** to look.

They **refused** to see
what could be **seen**.

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*The man answered, "Now **that is remarkable!**
You **don't know** where he **comes from**,
yet he **opened my eyes**.*

*We **know** that God does **not listen** to **sinners**.*

*He **listens** to the **godly** person who does his will.*

*Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this **man** were not **from God**, he could **do nothing**."*

To this they replied,

*"You were **steeped in sin** at birth;*

*How **dare you lecture us!**"*

And they threw him out!

John 9: 30-34 NIV

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It's OK to be wrong.

It's OK to not know.

It's not OK not to look
if there's something
to be seen.

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Have **you** put God in a **box**?

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