

## Reader's Theater: The Man Born Blind

John 9:1-41 (NLT, adapted) plus optional selections from the hymn Amazing Grace (United Methodist Hymnal #378). The hymn may be sung by a soloist, a choir, the congregation or a combination thereof. It could also be used as an instrumental background, providing emphasis to the various moods of the text.

*Instrumentation begins softly*

NARRATOR

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

DISCIPLE

Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it a result of his own sins or those of his parents?

JESUS

It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins. He was born blind so the power of God could be seen in him. All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, because there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end. But while I am still here in the world, I am the light of the world.

NARRATOR

Then Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smoothed the mud over the blind man's eyes.

JESUS

Go and wash in the pool of Siloam

NARRATOR

So the man went and washed, and came back seeing!

His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other,

NEIGHBOR 1

Is this the same man -- that beggar?

MAN WHO NOW SEES

I am the man!

NEIGHBOR 2

No, but he surely looks like him!

MAN WHO NOW SEES

I am the man!

NEIGHBOR 1

Who healed you? What happened?

MAN WHO NOW SEES

The man they call Jesus made mud and smoothed it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash off the mud.' I went and washed, and now I can see!

NEIGHBOR 2

Where is he now?

MAN WHO NOW SEES

I don't know.

*Instrumental interlude the length of one verse of Amazing Grace*

NARRATOR

Then they took the man to the Pharisees. Now as it happened, Jesus had healed the man on a Sabbath. The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them

MAN WHO NOW SEES

He smoothed the mud over my eyes, and when it was washed away, I could see!

PHARISEE 1

This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.

PHARISEE 2

But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?

PHARISEE 1

He is not from God!

PHARISEE 2

But such miracles!

PHARISEE 1

This man who opened your eyes -- who do you say he is?

MAN WHO NOW SEES

I think he must be a prophet.

*SINGING OR INTERLUDE*

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.*

NARRATOR

The Jewish leaders wouldn't believe he had been blind, so they called in his parents.

PHARISEE 1

Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he see?

MOTHER

We know this is our son and that he was born blind, but we don't know how he can see or who healed him. He is old enough to speak for himself. Ask him.

NARRATOR

They said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue.

*SINGING OR INTERLUDE*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.*

NARRATOR

So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him

PHARISEE 1

Give glory to God by telling the truth, because we know Jesus is a sinner.

MAN WHO NOW SEES

I don't know whether he is a sinner. But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!

PHARISEE 2

But what did he do? How did he heal you?

MAN WHO NOW SEES

Look! I told you once. Didn't you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?

PHARISEE 1

You... you... you are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know anything about him.

MAN WHO NOW SEES

Why, that's very strange! He healed my eyes, and yet you don't know anything about him! Well, God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. 32 Never since the world began has anyone been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he couldn't do it.

PHARISEE 1

You were born in sin! Are you trying to teach us?

NARRATOR

And they threw him out of the synagogue.

*SINGING OR INTERLUDE*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.*

NARRATOR

When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man

JESUS

Do you believe in the Son of Man

MAN WHO NOW SEES

Who is he, sir, because I would like to.

JESUS

You have seen him. He is speaking to you!

MAN WHO NOW SEES

Yes, Lord, I believe!

SINGING OR INTERLUDE

The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.

JESUS

I have come to judge the world. I have come to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.

PHARISEE 1

Are you saying we are blind?

JESUS

If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty. But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.

SINGING OR INTERLUDE

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

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