

What I Know: Your Story to Tell

- **Text:** John 9
- **Series:** According to John

- **Message Summary:**

- This sermon is based on John chapter 9 and focuses on Jesus healing a man who was born blind. The story begins with the disciples asking a question that reflects a common belief in their culture: *“Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”* They assume suffering must be the direct result of sin. Jesus corrects this thinking and explains that neither the man nor his parents caused his blindness. Instead, this situation will become an opportunity for God’s work to be revealed. This speaks to the deep and personal questions many people still ask when facing sickness, disability, or suffering.
- Jesus then declares, *“I am the light of the world.”* This statement is especially meaningful because it is made during the Festival of Tabernacles, a celebration that included the symbolic use of light. Jesus shows that He is not simply part of religious tradition but is the true source of spiritual light and life.
- Jesus heals the man in an unexpected way by making mud with His saliva, placing it on the man’s eyes, and sending him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. When the man obeys, he returns able to see. This miracle is more than a physical healing. In that culture, blindness meant social isolation, poverty, and a lack of future opportunity. Through Jesus, the man receives not only sight, but restoration, dignity, and a new life.
- The man’s healing becomes the focus of intense questioning. His neighbours debate whether he is truly the same person, and the religious leaders investigate the miracle. Instead of celebrating what God has done, they focus on the fact that the healing occurred on the Sabbath. Their concern for rules blinds them to the work of God taking place before them. This creates a clear contrast in the chapter: the man who was blind now sees, while the religious leaders remain spiritually blind.
- As the story unfolds, the healed man’s understanding of Jesus grows. At first he refers to Him simply as “the man called Jesus.” Later he calls Him a prophet, and eventually Jesus is recognized as the Christ and the Son of God. The chapter shows that true sight is not only physical, but spiritual—coming to recognize who Jesus truly is.
- When the religious leaders are unable to deny the miracle, they bring in the man’s parents. The parents confirm that their son was born blind but refuse to explain how he was healed.

They are afraid of being expelled from the synagogue if they openly support Jesus. Their response highlights the real social and relational cost of identifying with Christ.

- The leaders then pressure the healed man to reject Jesus. His response becomes the heart of the sermon: *“Whether he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”* He does not claim to have all the answers. Instead, he speaks honestly and simply about what has happened in his own life.
- The sermon connects this moment to a modern example through the public testimony of the musician Jelly Roll, who shared how Jesus transformed his life after years of addiction, crime, and imprisonment. Like the blind man, he does not claim perfect understanding, but he boldly tells what Jesus has done for him.
- A key lesson from the miracle itself is that God does not always work in ways that fit human expectations or religious comfort. Jesus’ use of mud and spit is surprising and even uncomfortable. The sermon emphasizes that God often works in messy and unexpected ways, and people can miss what God is doing if they focus more on religious rules or personal preferences than on God’s transforming power.
- The sermon highlights that testimonies are first about transformation. The blind man can clearly say, “I was blind, now I see.” In the same way, every believer has a story of change. The greatest transformation is salvation—moving from spiritual death to life in Christ. Other transformations may include freedom from addiction, healing, restored peace, and release from shame. These stories do not need to be dramatic to be meaningful.
- Testimonies are also about what a person knows. The blind man openly admits what he does not know, but confidently shares what he does know. Many Christians hesitate to share their faith because they feel unqualified or fear difficult questions. The sermon encourages believers to share their personal experience of Jesus, even while continuing to grow in understanding.
- Sharing one’s story is described as a test. Like the blind man and his parents, believers may face rejection, discomfort, or misunderstanding when they speak about Jesus. At the same time, testimonies test those who hear them, revealing how people respond to the work of God.
- Finally, the sermon explains that testimonies are not only for personal benefit. The Pool of Siloam, where the man is sent to wash, means “sent.” This becomes a picture of God’s purpose for believers. God transforms people so that His grace and hope will flow through them to others. Christians are challenged to recall a moment of transformation in their own

lives and then recount that story to someone else during the week. The message is simple: *“I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.”*

- Grow Group Questions

1. Take a moment for someone to start your time in prayer together, asking God to reveal His truth through His word and your conversations.
2. Outside of Christ, what is something you would say has “changed your life” (e.g., meeting your spouse, an incredible book series, the best guacamole recipe ever, etc.) * *These testimonies are fun to share, but pale in comparison to the life transformation found in Christ.*
3. Take turns reading all of Chapter 9 together. What stands out to you in this text? What questions arise?
4. Jesus and His ministry did not fit into the religious ‘boxes’ of the Pharisees. He broke their rules and did things in unique, sometimes messy ways. In what ways today do you or other humans struggle to recognize and receive the work of Jesus? What boxes have we tried to place Jesus in?
5. Testimonies are about transformation - God moving in the lives of people. What personal “I once was _____, but now am _____” stories can you remember and share?
6. Testimonies are about what we know. What is powerful about your own experience of the power of the Gospel in your life? Why do we often let what we don’t know keep us silent?
7. Testimonies are a test.
 - A. Do you find it easy or difficult to share your story with others?
 - B. What would the results be for the formerly blind man after being kicked out of the Synagogue?
 - C. What might social rejection look like today?
8. Testimonies are not just for you. Why are personal stories so impactful in the lives of others? Has someone else’s story had a big impact on your own life?
9. Challenge: Remember and Recount. Think of a Gospel transformation in your own life. Who could you share with this week?
10. Close this time in a word of prayer for boldness and any needs present in the group.