

**The Book of Signs:  
Reading the Sacraments in the Gospel of John  
Week 5 | The Light of the World**

1. John 9:1-41 (The fifth sign): What is the liturgical context of this passage? (See John 7:2.)
  
2. John 9:1-3: The man's blindness from birth symbolizes a universal human reality that has been in effect since the Fall. What is this condition, and how is it similar to the man's disability?
  
3. John 9:4-9: What sacraments are signified in the healing of the blind man? What details point to these sacraments?
  
4. How does the formerly blind man's understanding of Jesus's identity evolve during this narrative? (Note the man's four different statements about Jesus.)
  - a. John 9:11
  
  - b. John 9:17
  
  - c. John 9:33
  
  - d. John 9:38
  
5. What gifts of the Spirit does the formerly blind man exhibit throughout this story?
  
6. Like many other episodes in the Gospel of John, this story is thick with irony. Who is truly blind, and who sees clearly?

7. The evangelist often omits the names of significant figures in his narrative. Some examples include “the mother of Jesus” (John 2:1), “a woman of Samaria” (John 4:7), “[a] man...who had been ill for thirty-eight years” (John 5:5), “a man blind from his birth” (John 9:1), and “the disciple whom [Jesus] loved” (John 19:26). Why do you think the evangelist chose to exclude these figures’ names while including the names of others, such as John the Baptist, Andrew, Simon Peter, Martha, Lazarus, Nicodemus, Caiaphas, and Pilate?

8. Reading for next week

a. John 11:1-54 (The sixth sign)

b. John 12:1-11 (The witness of Lazarus)