

Gospel

For today's Gospel reading of John 9:1-41, we hear a reader's theater rendition using the NRSV translation. Today's reader's theater invites **YOU TO PARTICIPATE** at designated moments:

READER: You say,

YOU: Yes, it is me!

NEIGHBOR 2: It's him.

NEIGHBOR 1: No, but it *is* someone *like* him.

YOU: I am the man!

NEIGHBOR 1: Then how were your eyes opened?

NEIGHBOR 2: Yeah, how?

YOU: The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.

NEIGHBORS: Where is he?

YOU: I do not know.

Brief narration...

PHARISEE 1: How did you receive your sight?

YOU: He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.

Story continues...

READER: They are divided. So they ask you again.

PHARISEE 2: What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.

YOU: He is a prophet.

Story continues...

READER: For the second time, the priests turn to you and demand answers.

PHARISEE 2: Give glory to God!

PHARISEE 1: We know that this Jesus is a sinner.

YOU: I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see.

PHARISEE 1: What did he do to you?

PHARISEE 2: How did he open your eyes?

YOU: I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

READER: Their lips twist and their eyes turn to fury.

PHARISEE 1: You are *his* disciple, but *we* are disciples of Moses.

PHARISEE 2: We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this Jesus, we do not know where he comes from.

YOU: Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.

READER: Maybe you shouldn't have said it.

YOU: We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

READER: You don't know where the words are coming from. But you cannot stop yourself.

YOU: Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

Narration...

JESUS: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

YOU: And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.

JESUS: You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

YOU: Lord, I believe.

The story finishes...