

The Gospel According to John 8:58 – 9:18a

New American Standard Version

8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”⁵⁹ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.⁶⁰ As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.⁶¹ And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”⁶² Jesus answered, “*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”⁶³ We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.⁶⁴ While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”⁶⁵ When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,⁶⁶ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing.⁶⁷ Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?”⁶⁸ Others were saying, “This is he,” *still* others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the one.”⁶⁹ So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?”⁷⁰ He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.”⁷¹ They said to him, “Where is He?” He *said, “I do not know.”⁷² They *brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind.⁷³ Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.⁷⁴ Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, “He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”⁷⁵ Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And there was a division among them.⁷⁶ So they *said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” And he said, “He is a prophet.”⁷⁷ The Jews then did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind and had received sight...

Add your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application** from suggestions on the back page.

Observation (What does it say?):

What connection might there be between the end of chapter 8 and the beginning of chapter 9? How might that affect your understanding of this passage?

List the individuals or groups mentioned after Jesus leaves the temple. What word or phrase would you use to describe the attitudes or actions of each?

What is Jesus' explanation in v. 3-5, the Who? What? Where? When? How?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How might each group react to Jesus' explanation?

How might a person react who had been blind for 30+ years?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

How do you react? Is v. 3 a satisfying answer? Is it too harsh or unsympathetic?

What difficult areas in your life might be opportunities for the works of God to be displayed? What would that look like?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage (repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, unusual words, etc.)? Mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the writer’s thought process.

- Who are the people involved?
- What is the action taking place?
- What type of literature is the passage (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are there any unusual words used?
- Is there any symbolic or figurative language used?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Is there any repetition of words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Are there indications of cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that…”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore…”)?
- Does the passage contain any explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts of the passage that would help you **interpret** the writer’s meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

How does the writer’s meaning relate to your life? What specific application might the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

If there is ever a blurring of the process to the extent that the various phases [Observation, Interpretation, Application] of study become indistinguishable, then eisegesis will inevitably result.

Robert Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*