

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe

The Dividing Light

John 9:1-41 (page 747)

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As the L i g h t of the world, Jesus has come to:

- r e s c u e those who are in d a r k n e s s
(Jn 9:1-5; Rom 8:28)
- give s i g h t to these who are b l i n d (Jn 9:6-12)
- to b l i n d those who think they s e e (Jn 9:13-34, 41)
- bring the b l i n d into the l i g h t of f a i t h (Jn 9:35-40)

Personal Insights:

It's not about the m e t h o d of the healing, it's about the
H e a l e r!

We must be c a r e f u l to not stubbornly r e s i s t the work of
God in our lives.

Faith in Jesus is a p r o g r e s s i v e awareness of who He i s.

We must not neglect the p o w e r of our simple, p e r s o n a l
testimony in telling others about J e s u s.

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 9:1-41 (Week Twenty-one)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

Of all the disabilities that hinder people, surely blindness must be one of the most frightening and difficult of them all. Yet, the Bible tells us that there is something far more frightening and infinitely worse than physical blindness - the spiritual blindness of the human soul. In John 9 the Pharisees "see" a lawbreaker, the disciples "see" a theological question to be answered, and the neighbors "see" a blind beggar to be avoided. Jesus "sees" what everyone else so often misses - He sees someone through whom the glory of God may be revealed. The *irony* of this story is that the one who is pitied at the beginning of the story because he cannot see will be the only one who is truly able to see and who has true spiritual insight.

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

What new view of God does Jesus give the disciples (vs 3-5) regarding their question in v 2? And you?

In what ways do you think Christians today resist God? Is it the same reasons as the Pharisees or are they different?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you were resisting God? What happened? What did you learn?

After the blind man was healed by Jesus, was he timid or outspoken about what Jesus did for him? What example is this for us?

What was the main point of Jesus' healing of the blind man? Was it for the man's benefit or so that people might believe that Jesus was the Son of God? Discuss.

If you were interrogated for your faith, would you be able to give a reason for what you believe? How important is our witness (telling others) of God's work in our lives?

Why do you think sight is such a powerful metaphor for faith? How do things look differently through the eyes of faith?

Are the "*spiritually blind*" blind because they have no choice in the matter or because they refuse to see where the gospel will take them? Discuss.

Read vs 39-41... how do Jesus' statements relate to what just happened in the story? Is it still happening today? How?

Taking it to the streets....

Do you see people without Christ as sinners who are hopeless (*a problem*) or as someone whom God wants to display His glory in (*an opportunity*)? How does that change our attitude? Who is your opportunity to bring light to this week?

What is one area where you need to see with the eyes of Jesus this week? What will you do about it?