

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Nov 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #10: Jesus Heals the Blind

Who do you know that is spiritually blind? How have they reacted to efforts to share Christ with them?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION.

Read John 9:1-12

Note: The symbols of light and darkness were ancient universal religious symbols used to represent themes of good and evil. The symbolic contrast between night and day would have been read by the early Christians in the post resurrection era as a reminder that after the “night” of the Lamb of God’s death, the daylight had reappeared with the resurrection of the Lord. The night, however, was to be an extremely difficult time when the disciples and Jesus were separated in the trauma of the cross, and at that time all seemed to be lost—“when no one can work”. But that time had not yet come. Indeed, Jesus was still in the world, and he was “the light of the world” (9:5).¹

1. What was the disciples’ **attitude** toward the blind man?
2. What is Jesus’ view of the blind man? What was His motive for healing him?
3. What was going through the blind man’s mind as he heard the disciples talking about him?
4. Jesus’ answer about why the man was blind seems to imply that God made the man blind on purpose. How does that compare with your theology?
5. Why do you think that Jesus made the “mud” that required the man’s obedience? (Baptism?)
6. Why is this miracle so remarkable?

Read John 9:13-41

7. The neighbors and the Pharisees questioned the blind man. What was their motivation?
8. What does the blind man say that shows his faith is progressive? Vv. 17, 25, 33, 38
9. What is the value of his “testimony” based on his personal experience? vs. 25
10. What was the effect of Jesus finding the man after he was released from questioning? vs. 39
11. What does this teach us about Jesus?
12. We see a pattern of obedience, openness, questioning and eventually complete faith. How did the blind man demonstrate his acceptance of Jesus as Lord? vs. 38
13. How did Jesus make the parable into a miracle? What does it mean?
14. In what ways are we *spiritually* blind?

APPLICATION

How has Jesus’ healing of your *spiritual* blindness changed your life?

John 9 paints a picture of how Jesus heals blind souls:

1) We are all spiritually blind from birth, 2) Jesus takes the initiative in healing us from blindness, 3) Jesus does a work of creation in us, not reformation, 4) In this work, Jesus calls us to be obedient to what He commands, 5) Jesus commands us to be washed in the water of baptism, 6) We become a mystery to our former associates, not even seeming to be the same person, 7) We display loyalty to Jesus when we are persecuted, boldly and plainly testifying of His work in our lives and confounding others, 8) We pass from little knowledge to greater knowledge, and this brings us to greater worship and adoration, 9) We never know the name of this man born blind. Jesus is the important One; a true disciple is content to remain anonymous if his Lord gets the glory.

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¹ Borchert, G. L. (1996). *John 1–11* (Vol. 25A, p. 314). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.