

**BLINDNESS**

In the past few days, Jesus has been challenging the people and the religious authorities with a lot of truth. They have pushed back to the point of seeking to arrest and kill Him. The problem is that they have a blindness and cannot see the truth. There is a growing tension as Jesus' crucifixion is coming soon. Today, we will see Jesus heal a man that everyone knew was born that way. See how people wrestle with it and the blindness that is revealed in some while others see the truth.

As we begin today, ask God if there is any blindness in your life. Is there sin that you have put out of your view? Are there priorities that God has for you every day that you are not doing because they are out of sight and out of mind? Are there truths and promises that you need to remind yourself daily as you deal with life and our new Covid-19 reality? Pray Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

Jot down your answers and then take them to God. Ask God for clear vision and the freedom that comes from it.

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."* 1 John 1:7

**John 9:1-7** <sup>1</sup>As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, <sup>7</sup>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.

- 1) In the midst of all the things Jesus was facing, what caught Jesus' attention? Why is this significant?
  
- 2) From verse 2, what reasons did Jesus reject for this man's blindness and why did the disciples think that?

- 3) What reason did Jesus give for the man's blindness? Can this be applied to people in real need today? How?
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Each time Jesus does a miracle, He can accomplish it in any way He wants. Why do you think Jesus healed the blind man the way He did?
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Describe what might have happened as the blind man walked to the pool and then back.

**John 9:8-12** *<sup>8</sup>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?” <sup>9</sup>Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the one.” <sup>10</sup>So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>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.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is He?” He \*said, “I do not know.”*

- 6) Why do you think there is a debate about who this man really was? Wasn't it obvious?
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What specific things did the man know and not know in his account of what happened?

**John 9:13-17** *<sup>13</sup>They \*brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.”*

- 8) Why did the neighbors and bystanders take the man to the Pharisees?

- 9) Why was it hard for the man to answer the “how” question?
  
- 10) What did the man add to his testimony about what had happened?
  
- 11) The issue of the Sabbath is a big one and it is a significant part of the Pharisees blindness. Consider checking out this video <https://www.pursuegod.org/rules-pharisees/> and write down the key points.
  
- 12) Next, read Luke 14:1-6. Jesus was responding directly to the issue of Him healing on the Sabbath. What does He say and then explain His answer.
  
- 13) How had the issue of the Sabbath blinded the Pharisees?
  
- 14) Do you think that you have any blindness concerning the Sabbath in how you observe it?

**John 9:18-23** *<sup>18</sup>The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, <sup>19</sup>and questioned them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”*

- 15) It is interesting that the Pharisees did not believe the man, the neighbors, and the bystanders. Finally, when the parents confirmed it, they agreed to him being blind since birth. Why was confirming the man had been blind his whole life such a big deal?

16) What did the parents fear and what does that tell you about the Pharisees control?

**John 9:24-34** *<sup>24</sup>So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>So they said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?” <sup>28</sup>They reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. <sup>32</sup>Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out.*

17) Complete the statements below that the healed blind man said about Jesus

- Whether He is a s \_\_\_\_\_ I do not know.
- One thing I do know, that though I W\_\_\_\_\_ blind, now I S\_\_\_\_\_
- Since the beginning of time it has N\_\_\_\_\_ been heard that A\_\_\_\_\_ opened the eyes of a person B\_\_\_\_\_ Blind.
- If this man were \_\_\_\_\_, He could do nothing.

18) What did the blind person see that the Pharisees could not? Why?

19) How do you think the things the Pharisees said and did in verse 34 made the man feel?

**John 9:35-41** *<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” <sup>38</sup>And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. <sup>39</sup>And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.*

20) Why did Jesus make a point of finding the healed blind man now? (at least 2 things)

21) The blind man was now both physically and spiritually able to see. How did it happen?

22) The Pharisees in the crowd reacted to Jesus' statement in verse 39 and asked "we are not blind too are we?" Jesus answered by saying: "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." What did Jesus' response mean?

This passage speaks to us about our need to have clear physical and spiritual vision. This was one major part of the theme for the Bike Trip challenging those who were going to have "2020 Vision". We must all realize that we have physical as well as spiritual "blind spots" in our lives. Ask God to open your eyes to truth and about yourself when you are reading the Word this week. Take the opportunity to ask your parents and close friends if there are any "blind spots" they see in your life (things you are clueless to). They are the ones who can tell you.

Pray the verse below back to God right now and ask God to grant you to have this privilege of fellowship with other believers, even in this time of physical isolation. Make it a point to be a part of your virtual shepherd group and reach out to those He leads you to connect with.

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