



From No Sight to Insight!

October 30th, 2016

TEXT: John 9:1-41

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- John 20:30-31 ESV

FOUR CONCEPTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION

1. SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS MAKES US BEGGARS.

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth....⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." - John 9:1, 8-9 ESV

In Him was Life and the Life was the Light of men. - John 1:4 ESV (see also John 3:3)

Having the understanding DARKENED, being alienated from the LIFE OF GOD through the ignorance that is in them because of the BLINDNESS of their heart. - Ephesians 4:18 KJV

Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. - Ephesians 2:3 ESV (see also Psalm 51:5)

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked - Revelations 3:17 ESV

2. THE SPIRITUALLY BLIND NEED MORE THAN LIGHT.

And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. - John 9:2-7 ESV

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has BLINDED THE MINDS of the unbelievers, to keep them from SEEING THE LIGHT of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God. - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ESV

John 8:12, 23, 29; 9:4

3. OPENED EYES MUST LEARN TO SEE.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. - John 9:35-38 ESV

- JESUS IS A MAN - John 9:8-12
- JESUS IS A PROPHET AMONG MEN - John 9:13-17
- JESUS IS A MAN OF GOD - John 9:18-34
- JESUS IS THE SON OF MAN - John 9:35-41

DANIEL 7 & THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 1:51; 3:13-14; 5:27; 6:27, 62; 8:28

Luke 8:18; Romans 1:17

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. - Proverbs 4:18 ESV

4. THERE ARE NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO REFUSE TO SEE!

Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains. - John 9:39-41 ESV

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. - Romans 1:21 ESV

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. - John 3:19-20 ESV

Next Steps

- Memorize **Proverbs 4:18**.
- Find a place to grow in my ability to see more clearly the light of Christ- weekend service, growth group, dream team, personal Bible study.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

Walk The Talk

A Growth Group Guide

Read John 9:1-41 - (idea: assign parts and act them out as a group!)

1. Have you ever gotten something painful in your eye? How did you get it out? Or have you ever been “called into the office”? What was that like?
2. Why do you think the disciples (similar to us) wanted to assign blame or shame for a person’s misfortune? How did Jesus correct this idea, and how did he use this man’s pain for a greater glory? How can our misfortunes be redeemed, as well?
3. When we see a miracle in a person’s life, how are we like the neighbors in this story? Like the Pharisees? Like the parents? Why do you think Jesus was always doing something against the rules on the Sabbath day?
4. Why can we so often be blind, like so many in this story, to the things God is really trying to do in our world? How is our failure to see, even more blinding to our spiritual progress?
5. How did this blind man’s perception grow in this story? Where did it ultimately lead him?
6. Who has been the toughest person for you to explain your faith to? Why? What have you found to be helpful in dealing with people who question your faith?