



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“JOHN 9:1-41”

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER

John 9:1-41 - What is true blindness? Jesus saw a man blind from birth and took the opportunity to live out God's purpose for Him in every circumstance – to heal a man's suffering while also teaching a lesson on spiritual blindness to all of those around Him. Look at John 9:3 -5: How are we doing at seeing the needs of suffering people each and every day in the world around us? What are we blind to? And what physical or spiritual blindness is holding us back from doing the works of Him who created us?

REFLECTION and RESOLUTION: Blindness can be defined as the inability to see OR an unwillingness to perceive or understand. The only way to determine what we are or are not seeing in our lives is by REFLECTING back on what we have done, where we have been, how we handled a situation.....and that REFLECTING should lead us to RESOLUTION – resolving to do more of what was good or resolving to bring about change when our blind spots are illuminated!

- Jesus SAW a blind man whom He could heal. The disciples saw that same man and wanted to know who had sinned to cause the blindness. Why do you think the disciples responded as they did?
- Reflect back upon the people you see as you go about your day-to-day activities; what people do you pass right by or see as a category, a problem, a distraction, or a burden, rather than a child of God whom He has placed in your path as an opportunity for you to respond to a need? How many times have you caught yourself quick to judge? What could you do differently to resolve your blind spots?
- Read John 9:3 again; Jason mentioned in his message different ways the works of God might be displayed in our sufferings or pain. What ways have you seen God glorified in your own pain or in the suffering of someone around you? How does that help you move through a new situation where you again encounter pain?

SEEING A SITUATION DIFFERENTLY: Jesus gave the blind man these instructions: Go wash in the pool of Siloam. The blind man trusted Jesus and did just that, and he CAME BACK SEEING! What a time to rejoice! Healed from years of blindness! The Pharisees, however, saw the entire situation differently – NOT as a time of rejoicing, but as a time of sinful wrongdoing in not keeping the Sabbath! Read John 9:8-34.

- What characteristics of human nature do you see in the various responses of the people to the blind man's being healed by Jesus? What was the response of the townspeople? The Pharisees? The man's parents?
- How did those responses show examples of spiritual blindness among the people present?
- The blind man boldly and consistently gave the same answer to ALL the questions that were thrown His way – what was that response, and what gave the man the boldness to not care what the Pharisees thought?
- What gives us boldness to do the right thing? Have you ever missed an opportunity to do the right thing and regretted it? Or HAVE you boldly done the right thing and been blessed by it? Have you prayed for boldness?

SEEING: We all have blind spots. We all experience spiritual blindness in some areas as we journey through life.

- God gives us physical sufferings to teach us spiritual truths, to remind us how we need Him! What do we need to have to recognize times we 'think' we can see things clearly, but truly cannot? How does the writer John make clear in this passage the reality of true blindness?
- Will studying this passage help you see times of suffering any differently in the future?
- Will you take some extra time to REFLECT on the past year, seek God's leading in identifying areas that need RESOLUTION, and then TRUST GOD to lead you in moving forward on your spiritual journey? What physical or spiritual blindness is holding you back from doing the works of Him who created you?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.