

LIFE GROUP LESSON

John the Life-Giving Gospel • Week of June 7

Introduction

Maybe today you feel like no one sees *you*.

But know this, Jesus sees you. Even if no one else does. He knows all you are going through at home, on the job, in your relationships. He knows the painful load you carry and the anger it brings. He sees the struggles, your questions, doubts and moments of darkness. He also sees the bouts of depression and knows when you feel like giving up.

Jesus knows your heart and your earnest longing. He sees the transitions at hand, as well as your future. Jesus *sees* all of you! ... and he loves you. He wants to be with you ... right in the middle of your challenges. Yet, he asks: While I am here availing myself to you, are you living into the light of my presence? Or are you choosing rather to remain in darkness?

Background

If Jesus is the light of the world, why do so many of us remain in spiritual darkness? Remaining in spiritual darkness keeps us focused only on ourselves. Think about it, when darkness closes in, we lose sight of who Christ is, his mission, and why he came into the world. He is the Light of the world – the One who spoke, and creation came into existence. The One who gave his life so no one would have to die in their sin. He still has the power to forgive and heal us of spiritual blindness. Jesus sees you and as today's lesson opens with Jesus *seeing* a man who has been blind from birth (John 9:1) ask Jesus to open your eyes, to wash away your sin, and enable you to see *and* love the people around you.

Read John 9:1-16

If 'blind' is defined as *the inability to see*, then the blind man in this story is not alone. For though he has suffered with physical blindness from birth, the disciples are unable to see the man as Jesus did. The Pharisees are unable to see the man as Jesus did. And even, the man's own parents are unable to see their son as Jesus did.

Discussion:

- Notice the disciples immediately assume that either the man or his parents had sinned (v2); yet Jesus says the man's blindness is so *the power of God would be seen* in him (v3). Two very different understandings. What does this say about Jesus, in fact, being the light of the world?
- When we assume we know why an individual is suffering, we should consider Jesus' response to the disciples in v3. What does he say about the power of God?
- Further, what does Jesus' response in John 9:4-5 say about the disciples' task (and our tasks/assignments as his followers) as we align with his mission in the world?

There is power in obedience, for as Jesus says, *Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam*, the man with the mudpack made from Jesus' own saliva, immediately puts faith to action and as a result, comes back seeing! (John 9:7). He was sent ... he goes. He washes ... he is healed. He is healed ... he returns to Jesus with new vision and purpose.

- According to John 9:6, how does Jesus' action parallel Genesis 2:7?
- What does the man's faith-in-action say about the power of obedience?

The man's freedom also causes questions to rise and skepticism to flare. And because the healing took place on the Sabbath, deep division surfaces among the Pharisees (v14, also John 5:9-10 regarding the healing of the man at the Pool of Bethesda). Though the man attempts to tell his story (vv11, 16) no one celebrates his healing due to their own spiritual blindness.

Read John 9:17-34

The Pharisees continue with their intimidation, demands and attempts to coerce the man into saying something against Jesus. The man says: "I don't know whether he is a sinner... But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!" (v25).

- According to vv27-33, the man continues to witness (almost 'preaching') as to the miracle he has personally experienced. What is unique about your testimony?

Sharing your story with others is powerful, for when you speak to what Christ has done for you personally, no one can refute your testimony.

- Yet, the man's testimony causes him to be thrown out of the synagogue. According to John 16:1-4, what did Jesus say the disciples would also face as they began to share their testimony about his being the Christ of God? (see also Revelation 1:9)

In Closing

Read John 9:35-41

Jesus finds the man and asks: *Do you believe in the Son of Man?* When the man says he wants to believe, Jesus reveals his identity as the Christ! ... the man receives, believes, and worships. Jesus heals the man two times. Just as the Lord gave him physical sight, Christ – the light of the world – now gives him spiritual vision that leads to eternal life. Contemplate on these closing verses. Jot down any questions you have. Ask the Lord to open your eyes and reveal himself to you. Receive Christ today and worship him. Close in a time of prayer.

One Year Bible Reading

June 7: 1 Kings 2:1-3:2, Acts 5:1-42, Psalm 125:1-5, Proverbs 16:25
 June 8: 1 Kings 3:3-4:34, Acts 6:1-15, Psalm 126:1-6, Proverbs 16:26-27
 June 9: 1 Kings 5:1-6:38, Acts 7:1-29, Psalm 127:1-5, Proverbs 16:28-30
 June 10: Kings 7:1-51, Acts 7:30-50, Psalm 128:1-6, Proverbs 16:31-33
 June 11: 1 Kings 8:1-66, Acts 7:51-8:13, Psalm 129:1-8, Proverbs 17:1
 June 12: 1 Kings 9:1-10:29, Acts 8:14-40, Psalm 130:1-8, Proverbs 17:2-3
 June 13: 1 Kings 11:1-12:19, Acts 9:1-25, Psalm 131:1-3, Proverbs 17:4-5



Text: John 9:1-17, 35-41

PLAIN TRUTH:

Jesus sees you, so your _____ blindness
 can be _____ when you _____ and
 _____ Jesus.