

LESSON SEVEN

JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

JOHN 9:1-41

1. **Read and re-read the passage.** Who are the people in this passage? Where does it take place? On what day does this miracle occur? Notice the variety of understandings each of the characters in this story has of Jesus.

2. **What else is going on? Briefly read John 8.**

a. Who does Jesus say that He is (v. 12; vv. 54-58)?

b. What is the reaction of the Jewish leadership to Jesus (v. 59)?

NOTE:

The Gospel of John includes only seven of the many miracles Jesus did while He was on earth. This miracle is the sixth one recorded. Each of them, John tells us, is included “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 20:31). This miracle, like the others John includes, teaches us a spiritual truth about our salvation.

3. **Read John 9:1-12.**

a. What question do the disciples ask Jesus about the blind beggar and his condition?

How does He answer them?

b. How does Jesus describe Himself in verse 5? Notice this is a repetition from John 8:12.

- c. How does the way Jesus heals this man demonstrate our spiritual state until He opens our eyes?

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

Notice Jesus' answer to the disciples' question about the cause of this man's disability in John 9:3: "*It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.*" How have you witnessed God use either your suffering or that of those close to you to demonstrate the reality of Jesus' grace and glory?

4. How does the blind beggar's relationship with Jesus progress in this miracle story? In each of the following verses, note what he believes about Jesus.

a. John 9:8-12

b. John 9:15-17

c. John 9:24-34

d. John 9:35-38

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

What is your salvation story? How has God opened your eyes to see who Jesus is? Take some time to trace your story of believing in Christ. Share this with your group.

5. How does the Jewish leadership's reaction to Jesus performing this miracle progress?

What do they believe about Jesus in each of the following verses?

- a. John 9:13-17

- b. John 9:18-23

- c. John 9:24-34

6. Read John 9:39-41.

- a. How do the Jewish leaders see themselves?

- b. How does Jesus see them?

- c. What has to happen for our guilt—our sin—to be taken care of?

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

Revelation 21:23 tells us of a city to come when God establishes His Kingdom that “*has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.*” How does knowing God has brought you out of darkness and into the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ give you greater love for Christ?

7. How does this motivate you to share your faith in Jesus with those who are spiritually blind?

EXPLORE MORE:

- A. Read Philippians 3:7-9.** What are some of the obstacles that might have kept the parents in the John narrative from being able to grasp what Paul describes in Philippians?
- B.** What might be some contemporary situations you find yourself in that would challenge you in these same ways? How will Paul's words help you respond?
- C.** There is no type nor description of the Lord Jesus Christ in the entire Old Testament which identifies Him more distinctly than Isaiah's Suffering Servant passages. **Read Isaiah 42:1-9,** in which the Lord points out how very different from man's ways are the methods by which His true Servant will bring about His Kingdom. What are some of the ways you see the vivid characteristics in Isaiah's prophecy revealed by the Lord Jesus in the John 9 narrative?
- D.** What are some ways the man born blind is emblematic of Isaiah's "prisoners?"