

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

John Chapter 9: Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind Cliff Bullmaster

Summary: Jesus and his disciples come across a man who had been blind from birth. After answering the disciples question of why the man was born that way, Jesus makes mud with his saliva and dirt. He places it on the man's eyes and tells him to wash in the Pool of Siloam and the man receives his sight. His own neighbors cannot agree on whether he is their neighbor or someone who looks like him. The man is brought before the Pharisees who question how he was healed, if this miracle could be from God (having taken place on the Sabbath), and if the man was ever blind in the first place. They send for his parents to confirm he was blind from birth, and then send for the man a 2nd time to re-ask what happened. The man is thrown out of the Synagogue for pointing out the obvious, that Jesus could not do these things if He were not from God. Jesus finds the man and reveals Himself to him and the man worships Him.

Objective: Ted's stated objective was *That our eyes would be open anew to who Jesus is*

3 Truths to remember:

1. **Nothing is a Mystery to God**
2. **He Never Stops Seeing**
3. **His Ability to Heal**

1 Challenge: Be Needy!

Discussion

1. ***Nothing is a mystery to God:*** In verses 1-7, what do the disciples ask Jesus about the blind man? How does Jesus answer them in both word and deed? How does Jesus' response give us hope through the terrible things that are happening around us right now?
2. ***He Never Stops Seeing:*** Read verses 8-12. Jesus truly sees this man, whom so many others quickly walked by and saw him as deserving of his condition (reflected in the disciples' question and the Pharisees' response to the man in vs. 34). His own neighbors have trouble believing it's really him because of the miracle Jesus did in his life. Do any of you have examples of when you were first made to see, and your friends/family/neighbors hardly recognized you because of the change that happened within you? What are some ways we *see* others better in our communities?
3. ***His ability to heal:*** Jesus shows us once again that He can heal physical ailments and he could have stopped there. However, in vs 35-38, he finds the man again. This time he

shows his power to heal us of our greatest ailment, the curse of sin and death. How does this miracle further emphasize Jesus' statement back in Vs. 3?

4. **Challenge: Be Needy! Read Vs 39.** What is Jesus' stated reason for coming to the world? **Read Mark 2:16-17.** How does this passage parallel Vs. 39? Both have Jesus responding to the Pharisees who did not consider themselves 'blind' or 'sick'. What are some ways in our own lives that we may find ourselves relating to the Pharisees, when pride sets in? What are some practical ways we build up our need for Christ?
- 1) What does it mean to be "a slave to sin?" As Christians, who have been freed from this slavery, how can we help each other not to fall prey to sin and instead to abide in the Word of Christ (John 8:31)?
 - 2) Most of us probably can't trace our lineage back to Abraham like the Jews in this passage, but what are ways that we also overestimate ourselves and rely on our merit and who we are rather than on Christ?
 - 3) What does it mean in this passage to be a "child of God" or a "child of the devil?" What is John's (the author's) intent here? Why does he make this contrast (so that we point fingers and try to figure out who's really a child of the Devil, so that we doubt our salvation whenever we mess up, as a warning against spiritual laziness, etc.) In other words, how do we apply this truth from the passage?
 - 4) Read Exodus 3:7-15, which is part of God's speech to Moses on Mt. Sinai before he led Israel out of Egypt. Why is it important that Jesus identifies himself as "I am" in John 8:58?