

INTRO

- Do you wear glasses? How old were you when you started? What do you like about glasses? What do you dislike?

This series focuses on the 7 miraculous signs of Jesus John records, so that we may KNOW Jesus more fully, TRUST him more deeply, and experience LIFE through him (John 20:30-31).

READ

John 9-1-7, 35-38

Overview of Chapter 9: begins with physical healing, ends with spiritual eyes opened

- the healing of the blind man (vs 1–7)
- the man & his neighbours (vs 8–12)
- the man & the Pharisees (vs 13–17)
- his parents & the Pharisees (s 18–23)
- the man and the Pharisees,
- cast out of the synagogue (vs 24–34)
- found by Jesus, brought to faith (vs 35–38)

REFLECT & RESPOND

The chapter begins with the healing of a man born blind and concludes with Jesus - the light of the world - giving spiritual sight to this man.

Jesus then said, “I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind.” John 9:39 MSG

As this chapter unfolds and we meet this man — blind from birth — and then those of his community who knew him as a beggar. Nobody, not even his parents, celebrated the fact that as this man declares, “though I was blind, now I see.” Let’s think about what was “blinding” them.

But first, consider the question posed by the disciples, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

- The “why” question seems to always be attached to suffering - Why me? Why them? Why God?

- The disciples question assumes the answer — that someone must have done something wrong.

Qu: Like the disciples, most of us try and figure out what went wrong when we see or experience suffering. After all, we think, good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people. Right? When you suffer, when you are faced with the “storms of life”, do you question “why”? Discuss.

Now, let’s consider the responses of those who saw this man, blind from birth, now healed.

The Neighbours

“Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ... “It is he.” ... “No, but he is like him.” ... “I am the man.” ... “Then how were your eyes opened?”

Pharisees

“Some of the Pharisees said, “This man (Jesus) is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.”

Parents

“His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.”

Qu: What various things appear to blind these diverse groups of people from seeing this miraculous demonstration of “the works of God” (vs 3), and by seeing these signs believing that Jesus is the Christ (from John 20:30-31)? Can you relate? What things hinder your faith?

PRAY

- Pray John 20:31 - “...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.”
- concerning the things that hinder our faith
- that we can see him more clearly and grow in faith and trust