

Answering Jesus: Have You Ever Acknowledged Your Blindness?***John 9***

In this study we are looking at the account of Jesus healing the man who was blind from birth. Not only did this miracle meet a very real need in this man's life, it reveals a deeper spiritual truth that is vital for all of us to understand. We will see this truth as Jesus moves from talking about physical blindness to talking about spiritual blindness. And though Jesus doesn't explicitly say it, this passage suggests that it would be really good for us to hear His question, "Have you ever acknowledged your blindness?" How would you answer Jesus?

Opening Discussion: If you lost your sight, what do you think would be the hardest part about that?

Read John 9

1. Why did the disciples ask what they did about the blind man (v. 3)?
2. How do the Pharisees react to the miracle? Why?
3. Jesus says that he is the light of the world (v. 5). How does this relate to what is going on in this passage?
4. What does the blind man know better than the religious leaders?
5. In your own words, state the blind man's argument in 9:30-33.
6. What are some of the signs of the nature of spiritual blindness that we see in this account?

7. What does Jesus reveal as the spiritual lesson behind the man's healing (vv. 35-41)?

Steve said:

We really only have two options. ***One option is to be like the Pharisees*** who were offended at the insinuation that they were spiritually blind; they would rather go to hell than admit that Jesus was the Son of Man sent from God. They had their religion and their traditions and they weren't interested in what Jesus had to offer. The ***other option is to be like the man blind from birth***. Admit to Jesus that you are spiritually blind due to your sin, believe in Jesus as the One who died for your sin. In response He will open your eyes and give you life. You become a new creature in Christ. But you have to let go of your pride, your control, your obsession with figuring everything out before you believe. Begin by admitting that you are spiritually blind.

8. When did you first become aware that you, like the man born blind from birth, were indeed blind? Was that a hard realization to come to?

Steve said:

If you have already acknowledged that you have been "blind from birth" (i.e., sinful from birth) and have believed in Jesus as the only One who can take away your sin, ***the challenge is to maintain the same desperation and humility you had at the first***. Jesus' vision for us isn't that we become self-sufficient and puffed up with pride because our eyes are open. His vision is that we say from the heart: "I once was blind, but now I see solely because of the grace of Jesus. Because I was saved by grace, I will live by grace. Since God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble, I will humble myself under the might hand of God. I will abide in Jesus and let His words abide in me. By myself I can do nothing of value."

9. How can we stay in a desperate, humble posture that we were in when we first called out to Jesus to heal us of our spiritual blindness?