John 9

Day 1

- Read through the passage.
- Write down key words, phrases and verses in the margin.
- In this passage...

  What is one truth God wants me to believe?

  What is one revelation I see about Jesus Christ?

  What is one way these truths make a difference in my life?

Day 2- John 9:1-3

1. Based on the disciples question in verse 2, how do they view the man who was born blind?

For Discussion: The view that sin is always a direct link to disability or disease breeds what kind of attitudes?

2. Who was responsible for this man's blindness according to Jesus? What was God's purpose?

Scholar's Corner: "Jesus' answer was the dismantling of an oppressive theological system. It took the burden of blame for disability off the frail shoulders of the broken and placed it on the omnipotent shoulders of God." -Jon Bloom

Picture and Ponder: "Jesus knew what this moment of proclamation had cost in the currency of this man's pain. All those years the man and his parents had labored under a perception that God had brought his judgment upon them for an unknown reason. All those years they had borne other people's contempt. Imagine what the man's childhood must have been like. Imagine the insults he endured, the indignities, the injuries, the poverty, the loneliness, and the isolation from other children. How many hours did he weep? How many pleas for mercy did he pray? No hope for an education. No hope for marriage. He had one vocational option: begging. His life had been very hard. And according to Jesus, this was God's plan."-Jon Bloom

Digging Deeper: According to Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, how does our suffering here on this earth affect our life in the future with God? How does Paul depict our sufferings?

God's sovereign ways are often a mystery to us. We do not know the purposes God has in the tragic circumstances we see around us and sometimes experience ourselves. We do not like to believe that sometimes God causes these things to happen, like in the case of the man born blind from birth. But if we truly want to know God, we need to know him as he is, not as we think he is. Contemplate these verses on God's sovereignty, and then pray asking God to help you trust him completely because he is so completely trustworthy. Amos 3:6b, Daniel 2:20-21, Lamentations 3:32-33, Isaiah 45:7, Proverbs 16:9, Job 1:20. During hard times cling to what you know for sure- that God is full of the riches of wisdom and knowledge (Romans 11:33-36). He is merciful, loving and kind (Titus 3:4-5, Psalm 145:17). He is working all things out according to his purposes (Psalm 33:11).
The path you walk may be dark; you may not have understanding about your circumstances, but trust in the Lord, and rely on God. Isaiah 50:10b

Day 3- John 9:4-23

3. How does Jesus let his light shine on the darkness around him, and invite his disciples to do the same according to verse 4? How does Jesus convey a sense of urgency?

Do you have a sense of urgency in doing the work God has called you to do? Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom."(NLT) Make this a prayer, asking God to help you make wise choices throughout your day that would enable you to help advance his kingdom and bring glory to him. Consider what intentional steps you could take to help you use your time wisely and take part in the work of God. Discuss this with your small group or another believer that you can be accountable to.

4. How is the light of Jesus going into the world, so aptly symbolized in the healing of the blind man?

For Discussion: Why do you think Jesus chose this particular method to heal the man?

5. Describe the various responses to the healing of the blind man from the:

   Neighbors (v. 8-12)

   Pharisees (13-18)

   Parents (20-23)

Day 4- John 9:11-38

6. What did the healed man cling to in verse 25?

When we are hard pressed from the trials of life things can become unclear. It can even be hard to hold a coherent thought in our heads. Doubts may creep in, and we may question God's purpose in our lives. Clinging to what we absolutely know about God is essential when we are in the midst of trials. What do you know to be true about God from your experience of Him and from what you know by faith, of His character from His Word?

7. Trace the healed man's growing understanding of who Jesus is.

   v.11-

   v.17-

   v.33-

   v.38-

8. What happened to the healed man in verse 34 that his parents had so feared?

9. After the healed man was excommunicated, how did Jesus complete the healing that he had begun on him?

Picture and Ponder: "So was it worth it- suffering so much for decades in order to proclaim the glory of God's grace? It all depends on what God gave him in return. God so loved him that he gave his only Son so that by believing in him, this man would not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). What this man received beyond his miraculous physical healing was far more miraculous forgiveness of all his sins (Matt.9:5-8) and eternal life in God's presence where full joy and pleasures never end (Ps. 16:11). What God gave him in return was a gift that would be worth ten thousand blind lifetimes."– Jon Bloom

Day 5- John 9:34-41

10. In verse 34 how do the Pharisees show they do not even fathom their need for a savior?

11. In what ways were the Pharisees shown to be blind in Chapter 9? Why did Jesus basically tell them in v. 41 that they had no excuse for their blindness? (For help see John 3:10, 5:39-40)

The nature of sin is deceptive, so it should be no surprise to us that we can be blind to our own sin. Pray and ask God to show you sin in your life that you are turning a blind eye to. This is scary because God is gracious and merciful to show us our sin and it is not pleasant! As you study his Word pray for a soft heart that is convicted of sin. Make Isaiah 66:2b your prayer- to be humble and contrite in spirit and tremble at God's Word.

12. This healing was one of the seven signs performed by Jesus that pointed to him as the Son of God and Messiah and also pointed to a deeper reality, a symbolic meaning beyond the physical miracle. What is the spiritual truth displayed in this miracle?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, or convicted you about, or something new that you learned, and write it here. Consider sharing this with your small group.

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