



## Small group questions

### *Blind Man Sees – I am the light of the world – John 9*

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact the preacher!

1. What does living life without Jesus mean for our spiritual 'sight'? Why are we initially in this spiritual state?
2. What things did not lead to the man being born blind? What caused the man to be born blind?
3. What is the work of God for Jesus when he was on the earth? What is the work that God requires of us? Are you currently doing this work in every part your life? (*See John 6:29*)
4. How does Jesus support or back-up his claim of, 'I am the light of the world'?
5. In verses 13-34, what happens to the Pharisees spiritual sight, compared to the man's spiritual sight? Why is this the case?
6. Can you recall when you first came to know Jesus and some of the revelations about your life that came because of Jesus? Why do you think you could see these things only after you came to know Jesus?
7. Sometimes the Christian life can be frustrating, hard and sometimes feels stagnant. How can you make sure you aren't getting bogged down but remaining vital for Christ? What are some steps that you can put in place right now?
8. Practically, how can we as a church make sure we aren't getting frustrated? How can we be a blessing to our individual brothers and sisters in the church and make sure that they are remaining vital for Christ?
9. Why is it important to 'stick with the light of the world'? What are the benefits of it?
10. What is the warning that came along with this passage? How did you respond to this warning? How do we make sure we aren't becoming like the Pharisees?

*Pray for one another that we may reject the lie that getting closer to God will somehow muck up our lives and pray that we will more readily enjoy the blessings of the new covenant which Jesus has ushered in. Pray also that we'll be people with joyful expectation of all that is yet to come when the new kingdom will come in all its fullness.*

# John 9

Without Jesus, we are spiritually blind.

- There are certain things that people do while driving that could be classified as 'unwise'
  - It could be unwise for a driver to eject and load in a new CD while driving
  - Some would classify driving from Cairns to Noosa in one trip as unwise, even with two drivers...
- But then there are things which are frankly, dumb things to do while driving:
  - Looking down to text someone
  - Watching a movie
  - Driving blindfolded
  - Or Driving at night without your headlights on
    - One night it we had a blackout at home after 6:30 church and there were no street lights.
    - I was driving home and I pulled over and turned my headlights off.
    - It was pitch black..I couldn't see a thing...and the most stupid thing that I could have done was pull out and try and drive home.
    - By the way I didn't do it.
  - Driving while not being able to see anything is a dumb thing to do.
- And what we will see today is that living life without Jesus isn't just 'unwise' but it's a very dangerous thing to do.
- Because without Jesus, ***we are living life spiritually blind.***
- Today we will see:
  - The blind man sees
  - Seeing men become blind

## - ***The Blind Man Sees***

- Somewhere in Jerusalem, between two feasts, Jesus saw a man who was blind from birth and the disciples asked who sinned.
- Was it the blind man or his parents that caused him to be born blind?
  - Jesus denies both cases. He says that there was no major or specific sin that caused this mans blindness.
- Rather, He says that, This man wasn't blind because of a specific sin but was blind so that the works of God might be displayed through him.
- And Jesus continues:
  - Look with me at 9:5:
    - 'While I am in the world, I am the light of the world'
      - As we saw in our series in the prologue, Jesus is the light of all mankind!
      - The light represents all that is right and pure in this world.
    - And Jesus says here that he is the source of this light!
  - And as an amazing, powerful demonstration of this, he opens this man's eyes!!
  - He puts mud on the mans eyes and tells him to go wash.
    - And this man who was a nobody in society,
    - who had to beg to make a living
    - Who could not see a single thing from birth, suddenly is able to see.

- For the very first time!!
  - Can you imagine the awe and wonder that this man had?
    - Seeing trees for the first time, seeing people!
    - Not needed to be led anywhere!
- And he could only do that because Jesus opened the man's eyes.
  - Because Jesus is the true light of the world who is able to open up the eyes of the blind!
- But what we will see is that he just didn't physically heal him but the blind man will spiritually be able see.
- He faces strong interrogations by his neighbours and then by the Pharisees!
  - To the neighbours, the blind man insists, 'it is I!' 'This really happened to me!!'
  - And he describes in 9:11 that 'the man they call Jesus' healed him.
    - Here, the blind man recognises Jesus by his name. That's all he knows about Jesus!
      - He knows That: 1) he healed him and 2) that his name was Jesus.
      - He is beginning to get some sort of a picture of who the 'light of the world is'
  - And we see in these next verses is that his picture and vision of Christ gets brighter and clearer.
  - Whilst the pharisees vision gets darker and dimmer.
- As some of you may know I've worked in coffee for 6 or so years.
  - And I drink a lot of it!
- For some, even half a shot of espresso can make them wired!
- But for me, I'm convinced that it has the opposite effect!
  - I'm sure that coffee makes me drowsy!
- Studies show that the exact same substance can make 50% of people wide awake and can have no or the opposite effect to the other 50%
- What we will see in these next verses is that Jesus makes some people spiritually able to see but on the other hand, makes other people to become spiritually blind.

- **The Blind Man Sees whilst the**

- **Seeing men become blind**

- The neighbours bring this man to the Pharisees. The local religious council of the religious leaders.
- And it's here that we learn that the healing was done on the Sabbath
- The Sabbath was the special day of rest set aside for the Jews.
  - According to the law of the Pharisees, you could not heal or make mud on the Sabbath
  - So The Pharisees couldn't comprehend how someone can be from God and, apparently, break the Sabbath! V16
    - *Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."*
    - *But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.*

- That's why there is such an investigation going on! They are trying to find out who this Jesus is
- They asked the man about the healer and the man responded v17, 'that he is a prophet'
  - The blind man goes from naming Jesus to saying who he actually is.
  - Because he said that Jesus is a prophet, he is acknowledging that Jesus is from God.
  - His vision of Jesus, is getting stronger!
  - But the Pharisees were denying that he was from God and don't accept that this man was born blind!
- So they call on his parents to testify and they confirmed that he was born blind but don't say anything else.
- But the pharisees have come to a conclusion.
  - They ask the blind man to 'Give glory to God by telling the truth!' When they actually mean, 'C'mon mate, give it up. Just tell us that this Jesus didn't heal you'
    - They wanted the man to say what they wanted to hear.
    - They have come to their conclusion that Jesus was a sinner. The case is closed according to them. They are blind to the truth. To the light.
    - But, the man sticks to the truth. He grows bolder and simply tells what he knows.
      - Look with me at V25:
        - 'whether he is a sinner or not I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!'
  - In fact, after they had asked the man **yet again** about the miracle, he answered with even more confidence, taking a shot at the Pharisees!
    - He asks them V27:
      - 'Do you want to become his disciples, too?!'
      - Here is a man who was an absolutely nobody, beggar on the street, asking the top leaders if they want to follow the one who they hated and wanted to kill!
    - This is a man who was born blind, who has not seen Jesus but who has been healed by him, standing firm in the face of opposition.
    - He sticks to the light and he sticks it to the Pharisees!
  - His spiritual blindness is being lifted whilst the Pharisees are getting blinder and blinder.
  - He looks to Jesus, the light, while the Pharisees shut him out completely.
- They are so blind that they actually fail to acknowledge that the sign of the healing was there!
  - It's as if they were standing in front of a neon sign saying 'Noosa this way' and wondering 'how do we get to Noosa?'
- The Pharisees have heard this mans story in plain speech.
  - But they failed to see what is right in front of their eyes!
    - And in fact, the opening of eyes was one of the signs of the Messiah!
      - Who was the one who was promised to save Israel!
    - When speaking about when this Messiah will come, Isaiah writes 700 or so years earlier:
      - Isa 29:18 In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll,
      - and out of gloom and darkness
      - the eyes of the blind will see.

- Isa 35:5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
- and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
- The very leaders who should know their scriptures back to front don't want to see it.
- The people who can see, who have all the knowledge, are completely blind to the light. To Jesus Christ.
- But, the man's eyes are close to wide open!
  - He begins to tell the Pharisees what they should be hearing and what conclusions they should make!
  - His logic is simple and accurate.
    - What Jesus has done is phenomenal.
    - There is no one who has opened the eyes of someone born blind.
    - V33:
      - If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.
  - He preaches the absolute truth, plainly and simply
  - This man who was formally blind physically has had his eyes opened to the light of the world
  - The men who were physically fit and well, who should be religiously smart! have, spiritually, had their eyes closed.
- So they throw him out of the synagogue.
- Jesus finds him and asks if he believes in the Son of Man
  - which is his way of referring to himself..
  - And because the blind man hasn't actually seen Jesus before, he asks him to point him out! And when he does, the man immediately worships Jesus.
    - No hesitation, no doubt. He knows.
  - This man has gone from knowing not much about Jesus to:
    - Knowing him by name
    - Knowing him as a man sent from God
    - Standing up for him to the religious leaders
    - And finally Acknowledging him and worshipping him as the Son of Man
  - Whilst the Pharisees go from having some inkling about Jesus to rejecting him completely.
- And now Jesus tells us why this is in verse 39 - look with me
  - Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."
  - Jesus did come into the world to bring peace but with that there must be judgement!
  - And this judgment is that:
    - those who realise that they are spiritually blind will see - Jesus came to open their eyes! **The Blind man sees**
    - those who claim that they see will become blind - Jesus came to close their eyes. **The Seeing Men Become Blind**
- But the Pharisees didn't get this!

- They expected Jesus to be on their side when they said 'Are we blind too?'
- But Jesus says (v41):
  - "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."
- Because the Pharisees think that they see:
  - Because they think they have it all sorted out;
    - because of their sinful pride..
  - they are still guilty of sin.
  - They are spiritually blind and in darkness
  - So Jesus closes their eyes
- But how do we become not-guilty and how do we become able to see?
  - Well, just like the blind man, we can't heal ourselves. But Jesus can.
  - Jesus opens our eyes to see him
  - And when he does
    - We see that we aren't walking in the light
    - We see that we haven't been living the way God wants us to live
    - We see that we have been blind!
- But then,
  - We turn and we accept Jesus into our lives, the light of the world.
  - We let Jesus be our light and guide our paths
  - We let Jesus be the ruler of our lives.
  - And he will forgive us and put us in right relationship with God.
- This is the Gospel!
- At his loving death on the cross, our sins were put on him, our darkness was put on him and the world went dark. But the light of the world was not extinguished
- At his resurrection, the light of the world shone bright.
  - He made a way for us to have this light;
  - and for us to be pure, guilt free and have eternal life.
- So when you have doubts, if you feel like your faith is wavering or stagnant:
  - Look to Jesus the light of the world!
  - He has opened your eyes to see him so look to him!
  - Stay with him!
    - Look at what happened to the blind man!
    - By recalling Jesus healing of him, by looking to Jesus,
    - by sticking with the light,
    - he went from having no faith to standing up for Jesus in the face of massive opposition!
- And for us:
  - By looking to the cross and recalling our Salvation,
  - by looking to the event that made it possible for us to be in relationship with God,
  - Our lives and our faith can't help but be refreshed by the Gospel
  - Stick with the light!

- If you are here for the first time, it's because Jesus has opened your eyes to him!
  - Act on it!
  - Ask him to come into your life,
  - ask him for your forgiveness
  - and it will be graciously given! Come into the light.
- But this also comes with a warning
  - If you are here but have shut Jesus out of your life, your eyes will be shut
    - You can come to church and sing songs and even help out on the roster and still be spiritually blind!
    - The Pharisees were heralded as the top church leaders when in fact, they were completely blind.
  - So don't shut Jesus out.
    - Don't let yourself be blinded by ritual or your pride! Don't be like the Pharisees.
  - But act on the gracious opportunity that you have to turn back to the light of the world.
- Jesus Christ, Our Saviour.