

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 27

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Lesson 27 Conflict over Healing of The Blind Man

Background:

The tension between Jesus and the Jewish leaders continues to grow as Jesus performs one miracle after another and makes astonishing claims about His identity. The tension spills over into verbal conflict with strong words being used on both sides. The intensity of the conflict continues to grow in this section as Jesus, once again, heals on the Sabbath. This time the conflict centres around a man born blind who Jesus miraculously heals.

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Scripture Passage:

Read: [John 9:1-41](#)

Read the Following Quote:

“..the poor blind beggar sitting probably at the Hulda gate of the Temple, the mode of the cure, and subsequent discussion of the case by the man’s neighbours-is full of vivid details. It was not permitted to the beggar to ask or to receive alms on the Sabbath day: but his presence there on that day would be an advantage to him on other days. Jesus and the disciples were passing and observed this pitiable man, into whose should no light of heaven had ever penetrated. Such a case never escaped the sympathetic observation of Jesus. The disciples might have passed the poor man casually, but Jesus would not.”

[J.W.Shephard.](#)

Question:

What are some of the vivid details of the story? Why would Jesus be sympathetic to this man?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [John 9:1-12](#)

The Healing

1. Why do you think that the disciples believed that either the blind man or his parents must have sinned? Could God punish us with blindness if we sin?

2. What did Jesus say was God’s purpose in the man being born blind? Was the man blind because of sin? How does Jesus describe Himself in verse 5? How can Jesus be light for this blind man? How can He be light for us?

3. Why do you think that Jesus spit on the ground and made mud to heal the man’s eyes?

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4. What instructions did Jesus give to the man? At what point did the man begin to see? What does this tell us about obedience and faith?

5. What did the formerly blind man's neighbours think? How detailed was the man's testimony about what Jesus had done? How detailed does our testimony about what Jesus has done in our lives need to be?

[Read John 9:13-34](#)

The Pharisees Investigation

6. What did the Jewish leaders think of the healing? Was everyone in agreement? (13-16) What was the accusation and what was the defence?

7. What did the formerly blind man say when he was asked for his opinion of Jesus? Why do you think the religious leaders could not accept his testimony?

8. The Jewish leaders interviewed the man's parents next. What did the parents say? What were his parents afraid of? Why would they be afraid of this?

9. How did the blind man respond when the leaders accused Jesus of being a sinner? How do you respond when people in your circle accuse Jesus falsely? (24-25)

10. Re-read verses 26-34. Do you think that the religious leaders really want to know the truth? Why or why not?

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11. Who appears to have a deeper understanding of spiritual truth, the former blind man or the religious leaders? What do you think of religious leaders today? How can we know which ones are leading us wisely and which are false leaders?

Physical Blindness and Spiritual Blindness [John 9:35-41](#)

12. Answer the following statements True or False based on this final section

- a. The former blind man wanted to know the Son of Man
- b. Jesus claimed to be the Son of Man
- c. The former blind man believed Jesus
- d. Jesus did not say that He had come to judge
- e. All the Pharisees believed that they were spiritually blind

Discuss:

How can we know today if we are spiritually blind? How can we explain Jesus to someone who is clearly spiritually blind? If you had to describe what Jesus had done in your life in two sentences, what would you say?

Suggested Prayer: *Dear Lord, we confess that we have been guilty of spiritual blindness. We thank you that Jesus brings spiritual light into our lives and helps us to see more clearly. We worship Jesus as the Son of Man and Son of God. Lord, teach us how to share what you have done in our lives so that our personal stories might have a positive impact on others. Help us to be bold and confident when others challenge our faith. We thank you and praise you in Jesus' name. Amen*

For Further Reading:

[Why Did Jesus Use Spit and Mud to Heal?](#)

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