

Encountering Jesus How Blind Can You Be

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August 14, 2011

John 9:1-34 (page 1664)

Blindness of Assumption (John 9:1-7)

- Disciples' Assumption - If bad things happen somebody must have been bad.
- Jesus' Approach - Doing the work of Him who sent me.

"The chaos and misery of this present world is, it seems, the raw material out of which the loving, kind and just God is making his new creation." Tom Wright

Blindness of Familiarity (John 9:8-9)

- The blind man simply had become _____.

Blindness of Tradition (John 9:13-17)

- Tradition blinded them from seeing what was going on _____.

Blindness of Fear (John 9:20-23)

- Fear of being _____ with Jesus pushed them into blindness.

The Blind Get Blinder (John 9:24-34)

- The more they _____ their blindness, the blinder they become.

- The blind man _____ the connection of God and Jesus.

It Doesn't Stop Here

- The blind man later comes in contact with Jesus who identifies Himself and _____.
- *Then the man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him. (John 9:38)*

The Blind Man Goes the Distance

- Man (they call Jesus)
- Prophet
- From God
- Worshiper ("Lord, I believe.")

What Can We Learn About Ourselves?

- Be careful about drawing quick _____ - don't be judgmental.
- Take enough time to see the needs around us (Mark 8:24-25).
- Ask the right question - _____.
- Don't mistake tradition for _____.
- Our personal story has _____.

What Can We Learn About Jesus?

- Jesus brings true sight and _____.
- Jesus started with the _____.
- Jesus might not offer _____ with His instructions.

What Can We Learn About Interacting With Others?

- We don't need all the answers - we have a _____.

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

Reread John 9 (the whole chapter) and see what thoughts strike you.

What do you believe is the key question to ask when we experience suffering or have to deal with it?

What are some ways you think God uses suffering?

Can you think of times that traditions have prevented you from seeing or experiencing the truth?

What are some ways that people today attempt to disconnect Jesus from God? What are some of the loopholes they might try to find or apply?

Some next steps ...Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

What do you think are some fears in today's world that might prevent you from "stepping up" when you should?

Are there people in your life that have simply become part of the environment and need your attention? (Please note: these people don't necessarily have to be beggars sitting on the side of the road.)

Compare the attitudes of the blind man (who was assumed to be a sinner) and the Pharisees (who were assumed to be righteous).

