



ICEBREAKER: What was an injury that was costly (embarrassing, painful etc.) that you recovered from?

READ: John 9:1-41

“John has crafted the story so that I am forced as the reader to make the same judgment as Jesus’ audience. All the evidence of the miracle and Jesus’ identity are here. Now will I believe--with the blind man-- or will I ask antagonistic questions--with the leaders?--Gary Burge, John (NIVAC)

CONTENT QUESTIONS

I. The Darkness :: Read 9:1-12¹

“So here John wants us to understand, Jesus is doing ‘the works of the one who sent him’. A new chaos is on the way--the ‘night’, the darkness, when Jesus will be killed and the world will seem to plunge back into primal confusion. But at that moment he is establishing the new world of light and healing. After the chaos of Good Friday and Holy Saturday, he will bring the new creation itself into being with the light of the first Easter Day (John 20:1).--Tom Wright, John For Everyone

1. What are people’s perception of the blind man? Who is the cause (9:5, 6,11) and what is the result of this man’s transformation? (physically and how people would view him)
2. Read John 23:44-49, 24:1-9. How does Jesus’ taking the darkness of sin upon himself (44-46) and rising to conquer it (24:1-6) relate to the story of the man born blind? Your life? (see Wright quote above)
3. What darkness has Jesus delivered you from that needs to be remembered and celebrated? Where are you currently stumbling around, looking for light?

II. The Debate :: Read John 9:13-34

“The healed man professes no competence to judge whether or not Jesus is a sinner. At least to this point in the discussion, he is prepared to leave that question to the theological experts. But one thing he does know, and this point he will not relinquish: he was blind, and now sees... Certainly countless Christians throughout the ages have applied the same words to their own transformation, their own experience of the move from darkness to light: One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!

--D.A. Carson, The Gospel According to John

¹ For further examples of Jesus making the blind see and bringing light into darkness, see: Isaiah 29:15-21, 35:1-10; Mat. 11:5, 9:27-31, 21:14; Luke 4:17; 7:22; 18:35-43

"The anger and superiority of elder brothers (think Pharisees), all growing out of insecurity, fear, and inner emptiness, can create a huge body of guilt-ridden, fear-ridden, spiritually blind people, which is one of the great sources of social injustice, war, and violence.--Tim Keller, The Prodigal God

1. How do the religious leaders respond to the man who had received sight and to Jesus? (What is their posture, how do they make people feel, etc.---see quote above) In what ways could your posture make people feel this way?

2. How does the man respond to people about his encounter with Jesus? (what does he tell them, who does he point to, who gets credit, how does he challenge them etc.)

3. Read Matthew 5:14-16. What does Jesus call his followers to? What does/could this look like in your life?

III. The Decision :: Read John 9:24-41

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."--C.S. Lewis

1. What causes the formerly blind man to believe in Jesus? How does he respond in word and action to Jesus' call to believe in him? How are the Pharisees still responding to Jesus?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:9-14. What do followers of Jesus become? How? What is the result?

3. How should believing you are fully accepted by God in Jesus and worshipping him affect how you respond to people? (are your decisions driven by a fear of God or a fear of man?)

CONNECTING QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you question Jesus and what he calls you to do? What darkness (sin-either what you do or have not done) does he want to wash you of to bring new life?

2. What can you do to bring the light of Jesus to your world (work, home, neighbors, city, friends etc.)?

3. What is one passage, thought or idea that stood out to you in this lesson? Why? How can the group pray for you to apply it to your life?