

The Blind Man

Message 04 of the series, "I Didn't Catch Your Name"

1. Jesus came to bring light into our dark world and open our eyes.

"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'" John 8:12 (NLT)

a. People are spiritually blind.

"With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him." Ephesians 4:17-18 (NLT)

b. Satan wants to keep people stumbling around in the dark.

"Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God." 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

Note: Darkness brings:

- confusion
- fear
- pain
- sin

Life Application: Our dark world needs Jesus.

"I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark." John 12:46 (NLT)

- Light dispels darkness
- Light illuminates
- Light purifies and heals
- Light brings growth

2. Jesus proved that He was stronger than darkness by healing a man who had been blind from birth.

"As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 'Rabbi,' his disciples asked him, 'why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?' 'It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins,' Jesus answered. 'This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.' Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, 'Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam' (Siloam means 'sent'). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!" John 9:1-7 (NLT)

Note: Light is always stronger than darkness.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." John 1:5 (NLT)

3. People had different reactions to the miraculous healing of the blind man.

A. Some were confused.

His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said he was, and others said, "No, he just looks like him!" But the beggar kept saying, "Yes, I am the same one!" They asked, "Who healed you? What happened?" He told them, "The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.' So I went and washed, and now I can see!" John 9:8-11 (NLT)

B. Some refused to believe.

"Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees... The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, 'He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!'... Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, 'What's your opinion about this

man who healed you?' The man replied, 'I think he must be a prophet.' The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see..." John 9:13-18 (NLT)

Note: Jesus can't give spiritual sight to people who refuse to see.

"For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them." Matthew 13:15 (NLT)

Life Application: We must guard our hearts against the sin of unbelief.

"Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God."
Hebrews 3:12 (NLT)

C. Some were afraid.

"...so they called in his parents. They asked them, 'Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?' His parents replied, 'We know this is our son and that he was born blind, but we don't know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. That's why they said, 'He is old enough. Ask him.'"

John 9:18-23 (NLT)

D. The blind man believed.

"So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, 'God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner.' 'I don't know whether he is a sinner,' the man replied. 'But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!' 'But what did he do?' they asked. 'How did he heal you?' 'Look!' the man exclaimed. 'I told you once. Didn't you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?' Then they cursed him and said, '... we don't even know where this man comes from.' 'Why, that's very strange!' the man replied. 'He healed my eyes, and yet you don't know where he comes from? We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it.' 'You were born a total sinner!' they answered. 'Are you trying to teach us?' And they threw him out of the synagogue. When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man answered, 'Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.' 'You have seen him,' Jesus said, 'and he is speaking to you!' 'Yes, Lord, I believe!' the man said. And he worshiped Jesus."

John 9:24-38 (NLT)

Life Application: Jesus wants us to believe in Him and boldly tell others what we know.

"Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies."
Psalm 107:2 (NLT)

Life Application: We must humbly evaluate ourselves to see if we are walking in the light in every area of our lives.

"Then Jesus told him, 'I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.' Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, 'Are you saying we're blind?' 'If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty,' Jesus replied. 'But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.'" John 9:39-41 (NLT)

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"For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts...."

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Connect Group Questions.

1. What's the most amazing thing you have ever seen God do?
2. What is the biggest transformation you have ever witnessed in another person's life (i.e. losing 100 lbs, etc.)? How did you respond the first time you saw the "new and improved" version of this person?
3. Share your testimony with your group by answering the following three questions:
 - What was I like before I met Jesus?
 - What circumstances brought me to Jesus?
 - How has a relationship with Jesus changed my life?

In John 9:25, the blind man was able to share his testimony in one sentence: "I was blind, but now I can see." If you had to share your testimony in one sentence, what would it be?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. What in your opinion is spiritual blindness? What causes it? What's the cure?
5. Discuss the following verse from John Newton's hymn "Amazing Grace". What does it mean to you?

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see."
6. Spend some time praying as a group for people you know who might be considered "lost causes". Pray they would not harden their hearts and that their eyes would be opened to Jesus.