

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS (July 16, 2017)

What the Blind Man Saw

(John 9)

Small Group Study Notes

Getting to know you: Have you ever faced any medical emergencies in your family? What happened?

- Explain: We move from Jesus' declaration (John 8) to His demonstration.
- What are some obvious challenges of being born blind? Since there is no disability in that day how would those with disabilities live?

1) The Miracle – John 9:1-12

- Is all sickness the result of sin? Is it God's will to heal all sickness? How might God use sickness to draw us closer to Him?
- When you don't understand why God might allow a tragedy or some difficulty...what can you be sure of?
- Apply this truth (vs. 4)...are you making good use of your time, talent and treasure? What is the secret of living a life without regret?
- Why do you think Jesus told the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam? How does this tie into what happened in Chapter 8 (Feast of Booths)?
- How might this man's blindness picture the condition of a lost person?

2) The Mess

a) Cross-Examination (John 9:13-23)

- What were the Pharisees' major concern?
- What kind of "nit-picky" stuff goes on in the name of religion today? How might we major on the rules and miss the relationship?
- Based on the miracle that just had occurred, what were the two major thoughts (vs. 16)?
- What were the blind man's parents afraid of?

b) Bold declaration (John 9:24-33)

- Instead of entering into an argument with the religious leaders, how does the blind man answer (vs. 25)?
- Have you ever shared your salvation testimony with an unbeliever? How did it go?
- Why is a personal testimony so powerful?

c) Ex-Communication (John 9:34)

- What was life like for the person "thrown out" of the synagogue? Why was this a big deal?
- Should the church practice "disciplining" unrepentant believers today? What might this look like? Can you back this up with any Scripture?

3) The Messiah (John 9:35-41)

- Why do you think Jesus waited until this moment to reveal Himself to the man?
- How does the men respond to Jesus when He identifies Himself? What does this suggest?
- In what ways were the "self-righteous" religious crowd blind?

CLOSE:

- What does this miracle declare?
- What do you find troubling about this chapter (John 9)
- What encourages you about this lesson?
- Will you commit to sharing your salvation testimony with someone before next group meeting?