

3

A Blind Beggar

Seeing Jesus with Open Eyes

John 9

We want to see Jesus, hear him, know him. But sometimes we feel almost blind and deaf, and unfeeling to his touch. Yet, if we review our history with Jesus, we will find times when he has opened our eyes and we have seen him. And bit by bit he has made our faith grow.

GROUP DISCUSSION. What are some of your earliest mental pictures of Jesus?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Take some moments to reflect on your own history with Jesus. What are some of the stages you have gone through as you have come to recognize who Jesus is? What are some significant steps that brought you to your current relationship with him?

A first-century blind man (blind both physically and spiritually) encountered Jesus. And slowly, step by faltering step, the blind man “saw” Jesus. *Read John 9.*

1. What do you admire about the blind man?

2. What do you think Christ's words in verses 1-5 meant to the blind man at this point?

3. How would you describe the beggar's faith as he responded to the situations in verses 6-12?

4. Study the beggar's conversation with the Pharisees in verses 13-34. What pressures did he have to cope with?

5. Notice the references to sin in regard to both the man and Jesus in verses 1-2, 29 and 34. Why are these kinds of accusations particularly painful?

What is wrong with the view of sin portrayed by these accusations?

6. Verse 16 says that the Pharisees were divided in their opinion of Jesus. Why?

How did the beggar draw on the debate he had heard between the Pharisees as he developed his own view of Jesus?

7. The beggar believed in Jesus at this point at least in part because of what Jesus had done for him. What has God done in your own life that has helped you to believe in him?

8. Study Christ's closing conversation with the beggar in verses 35-41. How did the events leading to verse 34 prepare the beggar for this second meeting with Jesus?

9. Study the beggar's statements of faith in verses 11-12, 17, 25, 27, 30-33 and 36-38. How does each statement reflect a gradual opening of his spiritual eyes?

10. What connections do you see between the blind man's "faith statements" and some of the stages that your own faith has passed through?

11. If you were to explain to the Pharisees Christ's statement about blindness and sight in verses 39-41, what would you say to them?

12. The beggar spent many years in darkness preparing to see. How have the "dark times" of your own life prepared you for deeper faith in Jesus?

Pray, asking that Jesus will open the eyes of your soul to see him clearly—and that you will be able to respond with a heart full of faith.

Now or Later

In the coming week be sensitive to the possibility that people along the normal paths of your day may be spiritually blind to the reality of Jesus, but that God may be calling them to see. Be prepared to guide them toward spiritual sight.