



SERIES: WAYPOINTS, WEEK 6
MESSAGE TITLE: SEEING ISN'T ALWAYS BELIEVING

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *John 9:1-34*

John chapter 9 relates the story of the healing of a man born blind. Jesus heals this man in a unique way. He doesn't just touch the man's eyes and restore his sight. Instead, he does something odd. He mixes up spit and mud, puts it on the blind man's eyes, and tells him to go wash them off. When he does, the man can see. The man is elated, but the people around him have very different reactions.

The crowds are more interested in how the man is healed than why he was healed or the impact on his life. The Pharisees can't see past the fact that the healing was done on the Sabbath and label Jesus a sinner. They can't appreciate the miracle because they're caught up in their own religious system. The man's parents, when confronted by the Pharisees are terrified to answer questions because they don't want to be publicly shamed, so they defer to their son. The man who used to be blind fervently defends Jesus and says he is from God. The chapter ends with him worshipping at Jesus' feet. We can have the same reactions to Jesus in the world today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Have you ever been trapped in the dark? What happened?
2. If something happened to you and you became blind, what do you think would be the hardest change for you? What would you most miss seeing?
3. Have you ever had a first impression of someone that was completely wrong? Who was it and what caused that bad first impression?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since the group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What question do the disciples ask Jesus in John 9:2? What assumptions are they making by asking this question? Are these assumptions biblical? Why or why not?

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2. How does Jesus heal the man born blind? What does Jesus do? What does the man have to do?
3. How do the crowds respond to the man's healing? How do religious leaders respond? How do his parents respond? How does the man himself respond? How do these different responses prove Jesus' statement in John 9:39?
4. Why do the Pharisees call Jesus a sinner? What is it about his miracle that causes them to doubt his righteousness?
5. How does the formerly blind man respond to the Pharisees/ questions?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Pastor Brad pointed out that the man born blind had to go on a journey between when Jesus spoke to him and when he could actually see. How have you seen people in your life or in history go on a similar journey between hearing a promise and receiving it?
2. Have you ever seen God do a work in the life of someone you would have written off or least expected God to work in? What happened? How did it change your thinking about how God works?
3. How have you seen religious people/people in the church react in a similar manner to the Pharisees in this story? How have you seen people being dismissed in church or religious settings because of their appearance, past, lifestyle, etc. despite the work of God in their lives?
4. Have you seen people respond like the man's parents in this story, avoiding hard questions because they are afraid of the outcome if they answer truthfully?
5. Can you think of any examples in our own world of someone standing up to religious authorities like the man who was born blind, someone pointing out spiritual blindness among the religious?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How has God taken you on a journey in your life between what he's promised you and receiving that promise? How has that helped you to grow in your relationship with him, or has it?
2. How has God worked in your life when you least deserved or expected it? How has this impacted how you think about God?

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3. Do you find yourself reacting to people like the Pharisees did, judging them on appearances or because they don't act/dress like you think they should? How does this story impact your attitude?
4. Have you ever avoided answering a hard question because you didn't want to deal with the fallout of a truthful answer? What happened? How do you feel about it now?
5. Have you ever been dismissed by religious authorities? What happened and how has it impacted your life?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. How can your group pray for or encourage you as you continue to journey with Jesus towards what he's promised?
2. What can they do for you this week to join you on the journey?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.

