
The Gospel of John: That You May Believe

"Are We Also Blind?"

John 9: 13-41

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

*"We must therefore always see the kingdom of God as indissolubly connected to the person of Jesus Christ. In Jesus' words and deeds, miracles and parables, teaching and preaching, the kingdom of God was dynamically active and present among men." - Anthony Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future**

"It is particularly striking that all of Jesus' miracles (with the one exception of the cursing of the fig tree) are miracles of restoration – restoration to health, restoration to life, restoration to freedom from demonic possession. Jesus' miracles provide us with a sample of the meaning of redemption: a freeing of creation from the shackles of sin and evil and a reinstatement of creaturely living as intended by God ." - Al Wolters

"Grace cannot prevail...until our lifelong certainty that someone is keeping score has run out of steam and collapsed." - Robert Capon

"Behold the One beholding you, and smiling." - Anthony DeMello

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered? What is God showing you about Himself and yourself in this passage?

What "preview of coming attractions" is Jesus giving through this miracle? How does that preview of His Kingdom meet you in your disappointment, your striving to manage a broken world, or your fear that things are going very badly out of control?

Why are blindness and guilt and the effects of sin not an obstacle for Jesus and His gospel? Why is presumed sight such a hindrance?

What do you make of Capon's assertion about God's grace and "keeping score"? Why would keeping score prevent the prevail of grace in the Pharisees' lives and our lives?

Describe the progression of the healed man's emerging faith in Jesus. Has your faith or journey to faith followed a similar path? How so, or how not so?

How does this sign point us toward and connect with the ultimate sign of Jesus' work on the cross?