

# Men's Breakfast - Ok Tell Me Again...

1. Describe a time when an authority figure (your boss, a policeman, your pastor) pulled you over for a talk.
2. Who do you know who has challenged "the establishment" or "the system"?
3. About what do you tend to get complacent?

John 9:13-41 (NCV) **Pharisees Question the Healing** <sup>13</sup>Then the people took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup>The day Jesus had made mud and healed his eyes was a Sabbath day. <sup>15</sup>So now the Pharisees asked the man, "How did you get your sight?"

He answered, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see."

<sup>16</sup>So some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man does not keep the Sabbath day, so he is not from God."

But others said, "A man who is a sinner can't do miracles like these." So they could not agree with each other.

<sup>17</sup>They asked the man again, "What do you say about him since it was your eyes he opened?"

The man answered, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and could now see again. So they sent for the man's parents <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"

<sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But we don't know how he can now see. We don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, who had already decided that anyone who said Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>That is why his parents said, "He is old enough. Ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time, they called the man who had been blind. They said, "You should give God the glory by telling the truth. We know that this man is a sinner."

<sup>25</sup>He answered, "I don't know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see."

<sup>26</sup>They asked, "What did he do to you? How did he make you see again?"

<sup>27</sup>He answered, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his followers, too?"

<sup>28</sup>Then they insulted him and said, "You are his follower, but we are followers of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't even know where this man comes from."

<sup>30</sup>The man answered, "This is a very strange thing. You don't know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We all know that God does not listen to sinners, but he listens to anyone who worships and obeys him. <sup>32</sup>Nobody has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

<sup>34</sup>They answered, "You were born full of sin! Are you trying to teach us?" And they threw him out.

## **Spiritual Blindness**

<sup>35</sup>When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, Jesus found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

<sup>36</sup>He asked, "Who is the Son of Man, sir, so that I can believe in him?"

<sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him. The Son of Man is the one talking with you."

<sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe!" Then the man worshipped Jesus.

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world so that the world could be judged. I came so that the blind<sup>a</sup> would see and so that those who see will become blind."

<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees who were nearby heard Jesus say this and asked, "Are you saying we are blind, too?"

<sup>41</sup>Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin. But since you keep saying you see, your guilt remains."

**DISCUSSION:** A number of things are going on in this story, a man goes from being an outcast to a celebrity to an outcast. And his perception of who Jesus is changes as the story progresses.

1. See John 9:11 on the back a verse from last week. What is the blind man's perception of Jesus at this point? How is this similar (or different to many people's view today?

2. What did the Pharisees ask the blind man? (9:15)

3. Who did the blind man think Jesus was? (9:17)

4. Over what were the Pharisees divided? (9:16)

5. What convinces some of the Pharisees to stand against Jesus? 6.

6. What question bothers others?

8. Why does Jesus keep healing on the Sabbath when it upsets the Pharisees so much?

9. In light of their divided opinion, why do the Pharisees question the man's parents (w. 18-23)?

10. Still skeptical, the Jews send for the man's parents (John 9:18). How would you describe the parents' attitude and response (John 9:19-23)?

11. How would you feel if you were his father or mother?

12. Note the conflicting claims to knowledge and certainty on the part of the Pharisees, the parents and the

**John 9:11 (NLT)** He told them, "The **man** they call Jesus made mud and smoothed it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash off the mud.' I went and washed, and now I can see!"

**John 3:19-21 (NIV)** 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness in-

stead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

man born blind. What is each party sure of? Not sure of?

13. In the course of this investigation, what is the man able to see about Jesus (w. 12, 17,25,27,30-33,36, 38)? About the Pharisees? How is his attitude changing?

14. What convinced the blind man that Jesus was from God? (9:33)

15. What did the Pharisees do to the man who was born blind? (9:34)

16. In contrast to the man's growing spiritual insight, how are the Pharisees progressing?

17. What is the Pharisees' real motive in questioning the man (vv. 28,34)? What in the man's response finally puts them "over the top"?

18. What had Jesus heard? (9:35)

19. What did Jesus ask the man who had been blind? (9:35)

20. Why did the blind man ask Jesus to identify the Son of Man?

21. Who did Jesus claim to be?

22. What did the blind man do when Jesus told him who He was? (9:38)

23. According to Jesus, why had He come into the world? (9:39)

24. What people expressed shock at what Jesus said? (9:40)

25. What did the Pharisees ask Jesus? (9:40)

26. What did Jesus mean by saying "but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains"? (9:41)

27. Why did Jesus say that the Pharisees' guilt would remain? (9:41)

#### REFLECTION:

1. What divides Christian leaders today?
2. How would you react to a miraculous healing?
3. Why do you believe Jesus is from God?
  4. Who has been the toughest person for you to explain your faith to? Why? What have you found to be helpful in dealing with people who ridicule your faith?
5. Has your faith in Jesus led to your exclusion from any group? How has this hurt or helped you?
  6. Have you ever been afraid of religious leaders? Why?
7. Why does Jesus wait until now to fully present himself? How is the man, only now, able to affirm Jesus as Lord?
8. What blindness is the result of sin (vv. 39-41)? How do such guilty people see again?
9. What part does doubt play in spiritual blindness? How has Jesus been a light to you?
10. What unanswered questions or doubts are hindering you from fully trusting the words of Jesus?
  11. How has God opened your eyes? What spiritual insights about yourself has God helped you clearly see?
  12. What are some areas of spiritual blindness in your life that friends or family have pointed out to you?

## PRAYERS

*In a single day he went from a:  
Disabled outcast, to a  
Celebrity - miraculously healed, to a  
Witness in a court,  
Treated as a criminal, to an  
Outcast again (thrown out of synagogue)*

*His vision about Jesus cleared:  
First just a man called Jesus (9:11)  
Then he called Jesus a prophet (9:17);  
Then as one from God (9:32-33)  
Miracle worker  
Finally, realized Jesus as the "Son of  
Man" the Messiah*

**Syllogism** a formal deductive argument made up of a major premise, a minor premise, and a conclusion. An example is "all birds have feathers, penguins are birds, therefore penguins have feathers."