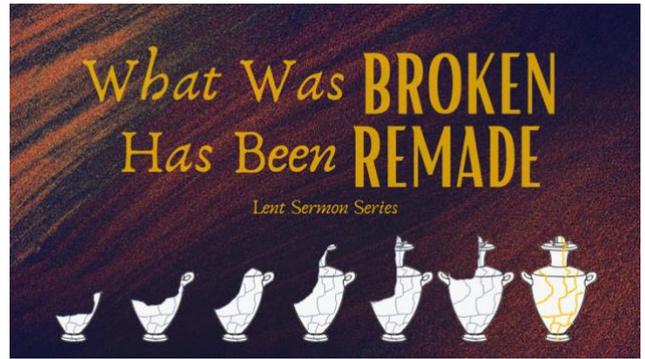


Life Notes

MARCH 22, 2020

GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH



TODAY: "JESUS HEALS PEOPLE BROKEN BY SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS"

Key Lesson: John 9:1-41

The Big Idea: As the light of the world, Jesus helps the blind to see and confronts those who think they can see by telling them they are blind. Jesus heals a blind man on the Sabbath to challenge Spiritually Blind leaders. Spiritual Blindness could be defined as: The unwillingness to look for the ways God is already at work in the world and in your life. It is a denial of who Jesus is and the love he has for you. It is thinking that God must be found, rather than turning around to see that God has already found you. Spiritual Blindness is overcome through the gift of faith and belief in Jesus. We should ask Jesus for the eyes to see where he is already at work in our lives and in the world.

John 9 Reading Guide: A Play in Three Acts

Act 1, Scene 1 -- *Jesus Sees a Blind man.* (John 9:1-5)

Jesus came as the light of the world. John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Act 1, Scene 2 -- *Jesus Heals* (John 9:6-7)

Jesus, the 2nd person of the Trinity, the WORD of God who spoke creation into existence, who formed humanity from dust, now does a bit of "re-creation" with clay and water.

Act 1, Scene 3 -- *Neighborhood Buzz* (John 9:8-12)

The people didn't SEE the blind man the way Jesus did. Deuteronomy 15:11 (NIV) "11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."

Act 2, Scene 1 -- *Sabbath Trials* (John 9: 13-17)

The blind man called Jesus "a man" (vs 11), now he calls him a prophet (vs. 17) -- there is a development in his thinking as this trial goes on. His spiritual eyes are being opened.

Act 2, Scene 2 -- *Witnesses Called* (John 9:18-23)

The parents respond out of fear – certainly during this trial, and maybe at the birth of their child. They didn't know the promise in: Romans 8:28 (NIV) "28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Act 2, Scene 3 -- *An Eyewitness Account* (John 9:24-34)

The Blind man declares in John 9:25, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Act 3, Scene 1 -- *Jesus Finds A Believer* (John 9:35-39)

Jesus didn't wait for the formerly blind man to find him. He was already looking. Later Jesus says to "Doubting Thomas" in John 20:29 (NIV) 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Act 3, Scene 2 -- *Jesus Confronts Blind Men* (John 9:40-41)

Following Jesus is involves moving into the light. Some would choose to remain in the dark. The Gospel of John proclaims, 1:9-12a (NIV) "9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

LifeGroup Worksheet

MARCH 22, 2020

This sheet is to be completed DURING your LifeGroup session

Scripture Reference **John 9:1-41**

1. Reflect- *How has God been working in your life? How has He provided, comforted, answered, reconciled or guided you? Be open to sharing both your successes and struggles.*

2. Read- **John 9:1-41** *carefully several times, both with your group and alone.*

3. Engage and Explore- *What do you think God was communicating to his people when this was first written? Try to answer at least one questions below.*

- What is at stake for each person in this passage? How does it change your reading of the passage if you take on the perspective of the disciples, Jesus, the blind man, neighbors, Pharisees, or parents?
- The disciples were trying to learn from their Rabbi when they asked about the Blind man. What are the lessons they learned from Jesus throughout this extended passage?
- Why do you think it was important for Jesus to confront the Pharisees in this manner?

4. Connect - *how this passage applies to you and your relationship to Jesus and others. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage? Try to answer at least one question.*

- Turn the page over and discuss which Act and Scene is the most important to you personally. Can you connect it to something in your life? (Examples: How to respond to people asking for money, a hard relationship with parents, trying to explain yourself but no one will listen, struggling to see how God is at work in your life right now.)
- Spiritual Blindness could be defined as not being able to see who Jesus is, and not seeing how God is at work in your life and the world. Place each of the characters (disciples, Jesus, the blind man, neighbors, Pharisees, parents) on a scale from spiritual blindness to spiritual sight. Where do you place them and why? Where do you place yourself and why? Do you think you are harder on yourself than you need to be? Why or why not? (Remember Spiritual sight has nothing to do with what you DO for God, or about *works* – it is more about seeing, recognition, and thankfulness for what God has done for you).
- Spiritual Blindness is not just a condition we suffer before we were Christians. 2 Peter 1:3-9 points to the potential return to Spiritual Blindness as a result of stagnation (vs 8) in the Christian life. Discuss ways to maintain your “sight” for seeing God at work in your life and the world.

5. Silent Meditation - *You may want to move away from the group to a quiet spot. Silently read the scripture several more times. Write down the words/passage you want to focus on this week and how you plan to apply God’s truth to your life.*

6. Share- *Key insights with your group from question #5.*

7. Close in Prayer- *Try using different prayer models found in the LifeGroup Leader Handbook*

Consider listening to one of the following songs as your closing prayer and meditate on how Jesus found you like he found the blind man. The blind man’s response was worship.

Hillsong Worship’s “Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace) or

Rend Collective’s “Counting Every Blessing” or

Hillsong Worship’s “Sing (Your Love)”