

NOTES:

Traveling with Jesus: Asking Directions (Week 4)

Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents.

-John 9:2-3

The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him." But the man said, "Yes, it's me!" - John 9:8-9

Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner." The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see." - John 9:24-25

They responded, "You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?" Then they expelled him. - John 9:34

Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Human One?" He answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him." Jesus said, "You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you." The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus. - John 9:35-38

Jesus said, "I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don't see can see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, "Surely we aren't blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you wouldn't have any sin, but now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. - John 9:39-41

How can find I see my way through life?

Accept _____

Accept _____

Accept _____

ReFocus Guide - week 4

The purpose of this guide is to help you delve deeper into the theme of the message from Sunday's worship service whether or not you heard the message. The mind works & the Spirit speaks differently when you write versus when you just think, so write your answers down after each day's readings. You may get different insights by writing or typing into a computer, or you can use an unopened pen or unsharpened pencil & "write" by scratching a piece of paper. Then pray a prayer for God to help you live into anything that the Spirit has brought up to you during this devotional time.

Day 1 – John 9:8-16

After Jesus healed a man who was blind there were many questions such as, was the man really blind? How is it that he can now see? How is it that God worked in a way that is not in line with our way of thinking? There is something about how God works that pushes us to see things in a different way. If we are not willing to change our point of view of how God works then we can very likely miss what God is doing. *When have you experienced God teaching you the way you thought God worked is not how God actually works? What did you learn from this? Where is God trying to help you see where you are blind today?*

Day 2 – John 9:18-23

The religious leaders were not satisfied with the answers that the once blind man gave. Obviously, this must be some kind scam & since God did not follow their rules, the blind man could not have been given sight...he must have been faking being blind. So, the leaders went & did their research by checking with the parents of this once blind man. Since the parent felt as if they would be cast out from their religious community, they did not want to speculate how their son began to see so they just stated the facts & sent the leaders on their way. This scripture allows us to put ourselves into two different camps. The first one is of the leaders. This camp says to others, "You can't possibly be right because you view things different than us & if you disagree with us then we will cast you out." The second camp is that of the parents. Here we are afraid to truly speak about how we have seen God at work because we are afraid of the retribution that may come from speaking up. *When have you found yourself in the place of the parents? What can you learn from that time? When have you found yourself in the place of the religious leaders? What can you learn from that time? How might God help you stop yourself from taking either of these positions again?*

Day 3 – John 9:24-34, Jeremiah 5:21, Proverbs 11:2

The former blind man & the religious leaders have their final showdown. The man tells them all he knows is that his eyes have been healed & if that has not been from God's power then who healed him? In the end, the religious leaders took the stance that because of their leadership position they know best. Who is this man to tell them what is going on? There are times when we can become blinded & deaf because of our arrogance & lack of humility. We insist we are right & there can be no other way to look at it. If we have humility, we are willing to listen & learn from another person's view. In addition, we are willing to admit that even though we think we have the only answer, we may only have part or none of the answer. *When was a time that arrogance blinded you? Why was it so hard for you to see and hear another person's perspective? Where is God showing you your lack of humility today?*

Day 4 – John 10:19-21

These verses tell of the division between the people who thought he was possessed by a demon & those questioning how can a demon give sight to the blind. The disagreement is over whether God acts in a way we already understand & expect verses do I only know the way God acts when we see his action within people. We, too, can get caught up in this trap of expecting to see God only work in a way we understand rather than looking to see if God is working in someone's life, or even our own. *What has Jesus done in your life? How has he brought you "sight"?*

Day 5 – John 12:37-43

Once more in the Gospel of John we see the topic of people who should be able to see who Jesus is but don't "see" because they are spiritually blind; this is one of the major themes in John. The writer is hoping that readers will be able to see themselves in the religious leaders so that they too, may find their own blind spots, the blind spot in this passage being loving human praise more than the praise of God. To be honest, this is hard to live out because we like human praise & we like being liked. At the same time, we can be tempted to go in the opposite way and think that if we are being criticized by others then it must be getting the praise of God, which is not true. The truth in receiving the praise of God is looking at the life & teachings of Jesus. If we can emulate them in our lives then we are most certainly receiving praise from God. *Where is the Spirit showing you that you like human praise more than the praise of God? What one step can you make to move in the direction the Spirit is leading?*