

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Jesus Encounters Series “Jesus & the Blind Men” – John 9

FELLOWSHIP

This passage confronts many of the philosophical questions that people ponder and struggle with regarding God and human suffering. It is hard to understand why a good God would allow supposedly bad things to happen, especially to people. When we reach out to neighbors and friends regarding Jesus, this dilemma is often the excuse that many will use to avoid a decision, either dismissing God (atheism), or trying to stay neutral with the perennial, “I don't know” (agnosticism). Whole religious systems have developed a system of *karma* to try to explain calamities that otherwise can't be. By the time of the Second Temple, Judaism had even tried to ascribe blame for certain kinds of conditions on generational sin. Misapplying passages like Exodus 20:5 or Deut. 5:9, they argued perhaps the family had done something wrong that the baby was born that way. The National Institute for Health states that in the majority congenital, i.e. “from birth,” eye anomalies, not even molecular, genetic testing can't identify a cause. Jesus redirects the theological assumptions of His disciples when he offers an even harder reason to comprehend, “He was born blind so that the works of God should be revealed in him.” Jesus is the light of the world, and this man was here, at this moment, so that his life could testify spiritual truth by a tangible, physical experience.

READ & DISCUSS

Read as a group together John 9 and discuss what the Spirit is trying to teach from this story. Who received the most *illumination*: Jesus' disciples, the blind man, his parents, the Pharisees, or you? John 9 and Romans 9 are the only two places in the New Testament where this word for *clay (pelos)* appears. Making and applying mud is so different from Jesus' other healing encounters. Could this be harkening back to Adam and the creation of mankind from the clay of the earth? Would Jesus' creating a new set of eyes have associated him with God in Genesis? While unique, notice the sequence of the healed, blind man's responses when interrogated. The real truth becomes revealed with each subsequent answer:

9:11 “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”

9:15 “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

9:25 “One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.”

9:30-33 “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

- Read Isaiah 29:16, 64:8 and Jeremiah 18:4-6 regarding *the potter*. Then read Romans 9:18-21. How can we understand God better in light of Jesus' actions and Paul's thoughts? What have been some of the dilemmas of life that were hard on your faith? How does this story affect your interpretation of pain?
- Read John 3:19-20. All are born spiritually blind by nature, others remain spiritually blind by choice. Why did the Pharisees remain unconvinced after so many could see the obvious regarding this man's healing? What can we do for people that seem intent on their disbelief?
- Read Isaiah 35:5 and 42:7. What have been some of the miracles you've experienced, seen or heard that opened someone's eyes spiritually? What did it do to your own faith?

PRAY Who can we pray with together that they would come to the *light of the world*, i.e. Jesus.



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Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message on June 25, 2017.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-encounters/video/jesus-and-the-blind-men/>