

Conversations with Christ:
A Blind Beggar

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of **THE DISCIPLE**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

2022.10.9



Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- Open your Bible to John 9, and let's explore the experience of this unnamed blind beggar...
What do you think motivated the neighbors? (v. 8-13)

What do you think motivated the Pharisees? (v. 14-17, 24-34)

What do you think motivated the parents? (v. 18-23)

What do you think motivated the blind beggar?

Which can you identify most with—and **why**?
- Reread John 9. List all of the things...
...that the blind beggar **didn't** know.
...that the blind beggar **did** know.
Which list is more impressive to you? **Why** do you think that?
- **Why** do you think the Pharisees **kept on** asking the blind beggar's opinion about Jesus if they did not intend to believe and respond?
- Were the Pharisees **smarter** than the blind beggar?
Did they need more evidence? **Why** do you think that?
- Why do you think Jesus was willing to receive worship?
Was that the **right** thing to do? **Why or why not**?
- **How well** do you see? (v. 39-40) **Why** do you say that?

Sermon Summary (Key Text: John 9)

Imagine living your entire life in total darkness. In Jesus' day there was not a more destitute condition than if one was born blind. You were a social outcast, unappreciated for your talents and abilities; you were only seen as a problem. There was little opportunity for social mobility. Chances are you would never marry, never have a family, kids, or grandkids. Your whole life would be lived out in a loneliness that would be just about as dark as your vision. You would spend your days sitting by the city gates or on the temple steps hoping that someone would feel pity upon you and throw a few coins your way.

Jesus encountered such a man in John chapter 9. He had compassion on him and healed him. You would think that everyone would be happy, but the religious leaders were not (v. 13ff)! They even interrogated his parents—but they did not want to get involved (v. 18-23). They were afraid the Pharisees would kick them out of the synagogue and that would affect their social status.

It was a dynamic miracle! Jesus' power is pretty impressive here. But John isn't recording this event to impress us with Jesus' power. Nor is he recording this event to impress us with Jesus' compassion, impressive as it was. John records it as an illustration of this fact: "Jesus is the light of the world" (see John 8:12). He also records this story to show us the different kinds of responses people had to Jesus. There are some people who believe in him and embrace the light and they see, and are saved. And there are others who see the light and they reject it. They shut their eyes to it and remain spiritually blind. This is the impact that Jesus' light has on people: some will be drawn to it and they will be saved. Others will reject it, and they will perish. In fact, one of the prophesied characteristics of the Messiah would be that he would bring recovery of sight to the blind, not just spiritually, but physically.

Jesus not only sees this guy, he sees him as no one else does. His disciples see him as a sinner. His neighbors saw him as a beggar. Jesus saw him as a man in need of mercy. Jesus not only sees him, he heals him. But this miracle has an unexpected impact in his life. What should have been the best day of his life begins to look like one of his worst. He is interrogated and kicked out of the synagogue. And Jesus hears about this and goes and finds him (verse 35) and reveals himself to him.

You see this man's understanding of Jesus is growing. His physical eyes were opened instantly, but the eyes of his heart were opened gradually. At first, he only knows Jesus' name (v. 11). Later he concludes that Jesus was a prophet (v. 17), that he is sent from God (v. 33), then in v. 35-38 he concludes that Jesus is "the Son and Man", he believes on him, worships him, and he is saved! The same thing happens to us spiritually when we respond to the gospel. First, Jesus sees us—as people who have violated God's law and gone our own way. We are in absolute spiritual darkness (2 Corinthians 4:3-6), destined for an eternity apart from him.

But then God shone the light of the gospel in our hearts, our spiritual eyes were opened and we believed and were saved. And what a contrast with how we previously viewed him. Previously, we didn't care about God. We were blinded to the truth. What happened to that blind man is a picture of what can happen to every single one of us when God shines his light into our hearts and opens our eyes to who Jesus is.

Notice the instant reaction. There is immediate opposition to this man. Even his family distances themselves from him. Maybe that has happened to you too. This happens a lot to young people. They go to a Christian conference or youth camp, they respond to Christ. They are excited about what God has done, they get home and their parents pour water on it to quench their passion for Jesus, because they don't share it.

Even the theological people get into a debate with this man, "I can't answer all your questions—all I know is, I was blind, and now I see" (v. 25). It is hard to argue with that, isn't it? It is hard to argue with a personal testimony. Some of us are terrified at the idea of giving our personal testimony. We think: "What if I don't know the answer to their questions?" But the blind beggar shows us that something as

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

A **physically** blind person **knows** that he's blind, but a **spiritually** blind person **doesn't!** (John 9:40-41)
So, what do the **spiritually** blind think of the gospel? What do **you** think of the gospel?

Monday— Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6.

- Who is "the god of this world" (v. 4)? Not sure? See: 1 John 5:19 and John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11.
- Verse 3 says that the gospel is "veiled" to those who are perishing (ie, going to hell). According to v. 6, how is spiritual blindness removed?

Tuesday— Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-20.

- Explain this: The gospel "appears foolish" (v. 18) to those with "foolish wisdom" (v. 20).

Wednesday— Read 1 Corinthians 1:21-25.

- Circle the word "called" in 1 Corinthians 1:1, 2 (2x), 9, 24, 26 and "chosen" in 1:27 (2x) and 28. Are you "called/chosen" by God? The test is: "How do you evaluate the gospel message?"

Thursday— Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

- Are you one of the "wise", who think the gospel is foolish, or one of the "foolish" who know it to be wise?

Friday— Read 2 Timothy 2:14-21.

- This passage distinguishes "honorable vessels" and "dishonorable vessels" (v. 20-21). Which are you?

Saturday— Read 2 Timothy 2:22-26.

- We **all** once were "held captive by the devil to do his will" (v. 26). Have you "come to your senses", have you been "granted repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (v. 25)?



- "Why do so many of us struggle with addictive habits?"
- "Are freedom and change possible—for me or my friends?"
- "What is the biblical method for breaking addiction's grip?"

Biblical Hope and Help for Addictive Habits and Eating Disorders

- **Saturday, November 5th 9am — noon**
- **Triangle Community Church [4216 Kildaire Farm Road, Apex]**
- **Facilitators: Dave and Krista Dunham**
- **For adults and high school students**
- **Tickets just \$15**
- **Free childcare available**



This interactive workshop will provide you with rich biblical perspectives on addictions, with additional focus on eating disorders, and will equip you with practical strategies for combatting these common struggles.