

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of John¹

Week 14 ~ Exploring John 9:1-41

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

Day 1: Read John 9:1-41 twice and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook.

- List as many points of contact between John 9 and the previous section (John 7 and 8) as you can find. When does this scene take place?
- What kind of handicaps, financial reverses, relationship problems, illnesses, or other sorrows have ultimately proven to be a great blessing to you spiritually and in other ways? How did you come to recognize the hand of God in some of these circumstances?

Days 2: Reread John 9:1-41 and then answer the following questions.

- There are four major reactions to Jesus in John 9, those of the neighbors, the religious leaders, the man's parents and the man himself. Take four pieces of paper and put "neighbors," "religious leaders," "parents," and "healed blind man" on top of each sheet respectively. Draw a line down the middle of the sheet and put "certain" at the top of one side and "uncertain" at the top of the other. Then list in the appropriate column everything in the chapter that indicates what each of these groups or individuals is certain of and what they are not certain of.

Days 3: Read John 9:1-41 and then answer the following questions.

- Write a paragraph on the value this story may have had to the second generation of Christians for whom John was writing.
- Have there been times in your life when you have been excluded from a group because of your religious convictions? Did this exclusion eventually prove to be a blessing or does it continue to hurt today? What steps could you have taken to prevent that exclusion? Would these steps have pleased God?

¹ Much of this study is quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

Day 4: Reread John 9:1-41 and then answer the following questions.

- Write a paragraph regarding the dilemma that the religious leaders find themselves in with respect to Jesus' claims about Himself. In what way do John 5, 7 and 8 help to clarify the nature of this dilemma?

Day 5: Reread John 9:1-41 and then answer the following questions.

- What is the major theological issue in John 9:39-41? Compare this passage with John 6:36-47 and 12:37-43. Write out a paragraph describing how the Gospel of John seeks to balance the concept of God's absolute freedom of action with the concept of human responsibility.

Day 6: Reread John 9:1-41 and then answer the following questions.

- Ironically, the blind man (who is no longer blind) is not the only blind person in the story. What Jesus is the result of this “spiritual blindness” according to Jesus? How can the “spiritually blind” receive their sight?
- How’s your spiritual eye sight? Have you ever experienced Spiritual blindness? What can you do today to ensure that you won’t have this experience again?

