

Series – What has John seen?

10. The man born blind - John 9: 1-12 & 24-41

'I am the light of the world' says Jesus. This provides much to talk through and consider, as does this whole account around the healing of the man born blind.

Read John 9: 1-12 & 24-41

1. Let us first consider figuratively and in today's context, 'being born blind'.

1a. In our nation, in our community, what would be your estimate be of the percentage of children who have little or no opportunity to receive Christian teaching or mentoring – we could say born spiritually blind?

1b. Assuming your answer above is a high percentage, and a problem that needs rectifying, what sort of things can we as individual Christians do to bring sight and light to these children? How and who can we influence to introduce change to this situation? Do we ourselves need to change?

1c. This situation is very different in other parts of the world, where followers of Jesus are multiplying hugely. We can be confident that God remains good always and will work all things together to bring good out from all situations, so (big question!) what is God's plan for our nation? What opportunities do you see currently in this country that God's Spirit might set ablaze?

2. Verse 25 'He replied "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

2a. The only recorded words of Jesus directed to the blind man prior to receiving his sight was to go and wash, nothing about Jesus himself or his identity or believing or faith. Nothing was required of the blind man to receive healing. What should we draw from this?

2b. What lessons are there for practical application in our disciple-making?

3. Verse 30, paraphrased - those who reject the gift of Jesus end up 'blind'. The eyes have been described as 'windows to the soul', so we might say that spiritually blind people have no true light in their soul. Is this the healing picture Jesus was painting when he said "I am the light of the world" or something more or different?

4. The use of 'light' to represent good, and 'dark' to represent bad, has become imbedded in our language and psyche, and has sometimes unconsciously surfaced in 'colour prejudice' between peoples of different skin colour. Test this out. See how far you get naming all the bad things that are white, and all the good things that are black, and you will be surprised!

Prayer We bless you and thank you God, provider of our daily bread, and we bless each other that the beauty of this world and the love that created it might be expressed through our lives and be a blessing to others, now and always. Amen.

