

## Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) John 9:1 captures the state of the human soul. Yet, so many people believe that they are actually “seeing” things for what they really are, rather than walking around in blindness. Why do you think people want to believe they can see, when it seems so clear that we cannot?
- B) Most of the Christians I know want to feel like they have more control of their lives than they really do. Again, what would the motivation be for a Christian (who understands the whole “light vs. darkness” thing) to pretend they can see more than they really can see?
- C) All of us love to feel like we are in control of ourselves. Many of us like to be in control of our environment to the point that we are actually willing to control others (spouse, children, co-workers, etc.). Some of us have even convinced ourselves that controlling others/things is a God-given gift. In the midst of this, Galatians 5:16-26 paints a very different picture of control. Read the verses together and discuss their implications in your (and others’) lives.
- D) If God has created works for us to do (Ephesians 2:10), what happens when we are not walking with God? Does that mean we miss the works? What implications does this have for our walk with Christ?
- E) Control issues. Faithfulness to walk in the way which God has designed, and not in our own way. The recognition of total dependence on God because we are in darkness, that He is the Light. Tough stuff for any Christian. Take some time to share the struggles/victories you have experienced in these areas of your life. Take some time to share some of your current battles in these areas, and spend some time as a group praying for victory and accountability. Be honest!

# Spit & Sent

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE SPAT ON THE GROUND, AND MADE CLAY OF THE SPITTLE, AND APPLIED THE CLAY TO HIS EYES, AND SAID TO HIM, “GO, WASH IN THE POOL OF SILOAM” (WHICH IS TRANSLATED, SENT). SO HE WENT AWAY AND WASHED, AND CAME BACK SEEING.**  
**~JOHN 9:6-7 (NASB)**

### **1) The Blind State Of The Soul**

- A) Jesus, at some point in time between the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles (John 7:2) and the Feast of Dedication (commonly known as Hanukkah, the Feast of Lights -- John 10:22), encounters a well known blind man (John 9:1).
- B) Jesus’ disciples, who know the man had been born blind, assume that the reason he is blind is because of sin\* (his own sin, or the sin of his parents -- 9:2).

\* This general principle was taught by the rabbis and summed up by Rabbi Ammi: “There is no death without sin, and there is no suffering without iniquity.” The rabbis taught, mainly based on Genesis 25:22 and other traditional sources, that a child could sin in the womb. They also taught that a person could be born leprous or handicapped in some way based on the life of the parent (e.g., If the mother of the child who is in the womb, participated in a pagan ritual, the child was implicated in the sin of the parent). Also, the concept that the sins of the parent would be present in the children (e.g., Exodus 20:5, 34:7, a recognition of “generational sin,” not a reference to God judging a person based on the sin of the parent. See Ezekiel 18:14-20 for clarification/opposition to this view) was probably in the mind of the disciples in this instance (Various sources cited).

C) While partially correct (as an outworking of the fall of mankind in Genesis 3, see also John 5:14; and Miriam's revolt in Numbers 12 for the connection between sin and specific judgment), Jesus clearly refutes that this is the case with this particular man (John 9:3).

D) Rather, the blindness of the man is so that (purpose clause, "in order that") the work of God "might be displayed" (9:3). While John does not say that God caused the blindness, He clearly asserts that it is God who is in control.

## 2) Working The Works Of God

A) Jesus clearly states that as long as He is present (daytime), He and the disciples must do the works of God (9:4). He notes that there will be a time of darkness coming, a reference to His death.

B) After Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:9-11), the disciples were "in the dark," anticipating what Christ would do next. Then, at Pentecost (50 days after the Sabbath of the Passover Week), the Holy Spirit (cf., John 14:26) came upon all of the believers, and the "Light" was turned back on (Acts 2).

C) The picture here is that as long as the Light is alive (John 9:5), we should be working the works of God! There are actually works which God has prepared for His people (that's us!) to encounter (Ephesians 2:10), which only exist to "display the Light of the world" to the world (John 9:3-5).

## 3) Spit Shine

A) Jesus spits on the ground and makes some clay. He applies the mud to the blind man's eyes and sends him to go get cleaned up at the pool of Siloam (John 9:6-7). After the man faithfully washes in Siloam, he can see for the first time!

B) The passage serves as a "capstone" example of what Christ was sent into the world to accomplish. He "completes" the old ceremonies of Judaism (the Law), with the authentic fulfillment of His life (Water & Light). Note the intertextuality:

- i) The pool of Siloam was where the High Priest would fill the golden flagon (11/21/04 Notes) with water for the "water ceremony." The ceremony represented God's provision for the people (water=life). Despite the symbolism, the people are still left thirsty.
- ii) Jesus gives the blind man sight, the light illuminating the darkness. The "light ceremony" of the Feast of Tabernacles lit up Jerusalem, which symbolized God's light in the lives of the people, but left the people in darkness.
- iii) Jesus (the "Sent One") sends the blind man to the pool of Siloam (which means "sent").
- iv) Jesus (living water) has the blind man wash away his blindness (results of sinful world) with water.
- v) Jesus (Light of the world) sends the blind man (the "man" in darkness) to the "sent water" to experience the "light" of sight, and eventually the light of salvation (John 9:38).
- vi) Jesus uses clay (the dust of the ground, cf. Genesis 2:7) to "re-create" the eyes which had failed the blind man.

C) Despite all of this, Jesus sets off a firestorm of controversy (John 9:8ff) because He is at work on the Sabbath (9:14).