

DAY ONE

1. What thought from last week’s commentary, study questions, or Spiritual Reflection helped you to better understand the Jewish leadership’s intention to do away with Jesus?

Read John 9:1-5

2a. As today’s lesson begins, Jesus was still in Jerusalem, having avoided the attempt on His life. There He passed by a man blind from birth. What did His disciples ask Jesus about the blind man (verse 2)?

b. Read Exodus 20:5. What conclusion could the disciples have drawn from the verse concerning the blind man?

3. Jesus presented the situation differently. How did Jesus answer (verse 3) and what do you think the last phrase may mean?

4. Jesus told His disciples, “We have to do the works of the one who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work”. Consider and share some reasons that Jesus may have used the metaphor of day and night with His disciples.

5. In verse 5 Jesus told His disciples, “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Share your understanding of what this means.

6. CONNECTION: The Jewish people believed that sickness and physical handicaps resulted from sins; thus, Jesus’ disciples believed that the blind man or his parents had to have sinned to cause the blindness.

Jesus told them that neither had sinned, and that “it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.” Physical and emotional challenges can offer a means for God to show His mighty power, His grace and His love. Have you experienced a time when you were able to clearly see God’s power and love made visible in the life of someone with a physical impairment? Share some thoughts.

Read and record Psalm 119:50 and begin your prayer today that God’s glory can be made visible through suffering and affliction.

DAY TWO

Read John 9:6-9

7. After Jesus had reminded His disciples that He was the light of the world, He addressed the man born blind. List His three actions described in verse 6.

8. After Jesus smeared the wet clay on the blind man’s eyes, He told him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam (which means “sent”). What was the result (verse 7)?

NOTE: The “sent” in parentheses in verse 7 referred to the Hebrew meaning of the pool of Siloam and is symbolic of Jesus, the source of living water and the One sent by His Father.

9. Jesus mixed earth and water in His hands and smeared the mud on the blind man’s eyes to heal him. In the Sacraments of the Catholic Church, the priest also uses tangible earthly substances to confer life-giving grace to Jesus’ beloved children. List the substances used in the sacraments below:

Baptism:

Confirmation:

Holy Orders:

Holy Eucharist:

Anointing of the Sick:

10a. What question did the healed man's neighbors ask about him in verse 8?

b. Describe the conflicting opinions as to whether it was indeed the blind man (verse 9).

11. How did the healed man resolve this controversy at the end of verse 9?

12. CONNECTION: Jesus did not need to use His hands to smear spittle-wetted clay on the blind man's sightless eyes, or send him to the pool of Siloam. He could have healed the man merely by looking at him, or with a word or even a thought, but Jesus knew that humans respond to tangible signs of love. God gave us bodies that respond to touch, smell, sight, sound and taste. In what ways do you communicate God's love to others through these senses? For example, do you sing to a grandchild, massage a friend's aching back, or prepare tasty meals for a loved one? Describe how a relationship of yours has benefited from these gifts.

Read 1 John 1:1 and thank God for the amazing gifts of our senses. THINK: Is there one gift for which you are MOST grateful?

DAY THREE

Read John 9:10-17

13. As today's lesson begins, the people were still marveling over the cure of the man born blind. When they asked the healed man how his eyes were opened, the man described each step that led to his healing. Complete the man's reply from verse 11.

The man called Jesus

And told me

So I went there and washed and

14a. The people asked the man who had been blind "where is He?" What did they do after the healed man told them he didn't know (verse 13)?

b. Remembering what you've learned about this group, do you think they would be willing to accept this new miracle? Why or why not?

15a. On what day had Jesus made clay and opened the man's eyes (verse 14)? Why is this a problem?

b. Refer to [John 5:16-17](#). In your own words explain Jesus' response to the Pharisees' insistence that no work, even healing, was to be done on the Sabbath.

16a. In verse 15 the Pharisees also asked the man how he was healed and he repeated Jesus' healing process. That process involved "work" on the Sabbath according to the Pharisees. For example, making clay could be "kneading." Use your imagination to describe the other "works" involved in examples below.

Jesus putting clay on the man's eyes could be considered

Jesus restoring the man's eyes through water could be considered

b. The Pharisees were divided as to whether or not the healing was a sin. In your own words, set out the two positions of the Pharisees and the reasons for each belief (verse 16).

17a. Finally the Pharisees again asked the healed man what he thought about Jesus. Record his answer from verse 17.

b. The Pharisees should have begun to recognize that Jesus was more than a prophet. Once again He was fulfilling the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. As an example, read and record [Isaiah 35:5](#).

18. **CONNECTION:** After God freed Israel from slavery in Egypt, He gave them the law as a sign that they were no longer slaves but free people in a new kind of relationship with Him. As a free people, they could rest and worship God on the Sabbath. Our day of rest is Sunday, the day of the Resurrection and the day of our new covenant with God through Christ. Keeping it holy is a way of recognizing and honoring our relationship to God, our Creator and Lord. In what ways do you honor the Lord on Sunday? Do you have special traditions, including recreation, meals or prayers?

Read Ezekiel 20:12 and write a prayer thanking God for His covenant with His people.

DAY FOUR

Read John 9:18-23

19a. The Jews still did not believe that the man born blind had received his sight through a miracle. According to verse 18, what did they do next?

b. What two questions did they ask the man's parents (verse 19)?

20. In response, the parents make four statements. Complete their answers from verses 20-21.

We know that this is our son

We do not know how he sees now

21. To whom did the parents tell the Jews to go to find the answers to their questions (end of verse 21) and for what reason?

22a. His parents said this because they were afraid. Whom did the parents of the blind man fear and why (verse 22)?

b. Once more the man's parents told them to question their son. Other than their fear of ostracism, what could be a reason that they continued to answer in this way?

23. CONNECTION: Despite intimidation, the blind man faithfully repeated his story and answered truthfully. He knew something miraculous had happened, but may not have totally understood the miracle. Consider in what way you may resemble the blind man. Has the power of God healed you, whether physically or emotionally, in a way that perhaps you might not have totally understood, but were sure it was a result of Jesus' healing power? Record some details.

Read and record 1 Chronicles 16:12 and begin your prayer grateful for God's wonderful mercy.

DAY FIVE

Read John 9:24-34

24a. Still the Jews and the Pharisees were not satisfied and called the healed man back a second time. What did they say to him (verse 24)?

NOTE: The phrase “Give God the Praise” is a form of an oath asking God to bear witness to the truthfulness of their testimony, much as the expression “So help me God ...”

b. Despite their browbeating he refused to back down and stated that he did not know if his Healer was a sinner. With what memorable sentence in verse 25 did he answer them? (good memory verse)

25. When the Pharisees asked the man how Jesus had healed his eyes, he asked why they hadn't listened to his previous explanation (verse 26). Record his next question to them (end of verse 27).

26. The Pharisees' frustration was building; their interrogation was being thwarted by a blind man and they finally resorted to reviling him. Complete their retorts from verses 28-29.

You are that man's disciple

We know that God spoke to Moses

27. In verses 30-33 the blind man proclaimed his increasing faith in the power of Jesus with some convincing arguments. In a few words, summarize the key point of the man's arguments from each of the following verses.

Verse 30:

Verse 31:

Verse 32:

Verse 33:

28. In their anger the Jews accused the man of being born totally in sin. What else did they say and do to the healed man (verse 34)?

29. CONNECTION: In today's lesson, pitted against each other are a blind man who attests to a miraculous healing and Jewish leaders who try to prove it did not happen! Just who is blind in this passage? As the "blind man" becomes enlightened, the Pharisees sight is darkened by arrogance and hatred, and they finally resort to bitter personal attacks. Have you met people whose beliefs blind them from seeing the truth? Share some details regarding how you respond to such people. Does this lesson change or support your approach?

"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth...." Fides et Ratio Encyclical Letter of St. John Paul II. Let these thoughts lead you into prayer.

DAY SIX

Read John 9:35-41

30. After hearing that the Jews had driven the blind man from their midst, Jesus found him. What did Jesus ask him (verse 35)?

31a. Once again Jesus referred to Himself as the "Son of Man." It was a title the Jewish people would recognize from the messianic prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures (Daniel 7:13-14). What does the healed man ask of Jesus concerning the Messiah in verse 36?

b. What did Jesus say in response (verse 37)?

32. The healed man's response to Jesus' words was immediate and heartfelt. What did the blind man say and do (verse 38)?

33a. In verse 39 Jesus speaks of those who do not see and those who see. Complete the verse.

Those who do not see might

Those who do see might

b. To whom do you think Jesus was referring and how will they be judged?

34. Read the following verses and record one phrase that helps explain to you what Jesus meant by “blindness” in verse 39.

Isaiah 5:20-21:

Romans 1:21-22:

35a. According to verse 40, how can you tell that the Pharisees took offense at Jesus’ words?

b. With what paradoxical statement did Jesus respond (verse 41)?

36. CONNECTION: This week’s beautiful story of the blind man who was healed physically and spiritually by Jesus is an example for our own faith journey. After Jesus opened his spiritual eyes, he proclaimed, “I do believe, Lord” and worshiped Jesus. Was there a time when Jesus was a light in the darkness for you, or have you been a light in the darkness for someone else? If so, please share some details with your small group.

Read and record Ephesians 5:8 and begin your prayer thanking God for His great gift ... Jesus, the light of the world.

Read Lesson 9 John 9:1-41 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

©Copyright 2017. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study

thecornerstonescripturestudy.org