



WEEK 6 | *JOHN 9*

## EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY

Did you notice the deliberate word plays (for example, Jesus, who has just claimed to be the one ‘sent by God’ tells the blind man to wash in the pool called “Sent”) and ironic humour in John 9? In all John’s emphasis on the theme of ‘witnesses’ and ‘testimony’ and ‘judgments about Jesus,’ here’s a man born blind who becomes the best eye-witness of all!

*Read through John 9 before your group meets.*

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## ISRAEL'S LEADERS JUDGE JESUS

Read John 9:13-34

1. With all the talk about night and day, and light and darkness, in 9:1-5, how does this man-born-blind become a symbolic way for Jesus to 'display the works of God'?
  
2. The Pharisees interview the man twice.
  - a) What did they think about Jesus in v16?
  
  - b) What did the ex-blind man think about Jesus in v17?
  
  - c) How have their thoughts about Jesus developed in v24, 28-29?
  
  - d) How have his thoughts about Jesus developed by v25-33?
  
3. When such very different conclusions about Jesus collide, there are usually negative consequences for those who follow Jesus. What examples can you see in verses 22, 28 and 34?
  
4. Even though his sight has been restored and he has a positive view of Jesus, the formerly-blind man still isn't completely clear. What extra progress is there in verses 35-38?

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## ... WHICH JUDGES THEM

5. Jesus makes a bold statement about 'judgment' in verse 39. What does he mean?

6. How do the Pharisees help us understand this in verses 40 and 41?

The Pharisees are clearly the blind ones! The God-given authority of God-sent Jesus is plainly visible to anyone with eyes to see. But they can only see as far as Israel's law, and their irrational fury that Jesus has healed the blind man on the sabbath day (v18). They label Jesus a sinner, and accuse the now-seeing man of the same thing as they throw him out of the synagogue. In the end they're too blind to even see their own blindness.

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## WHAT'S YOUR VERDICT?

7. What negative consequences are there for following Jesus in this passage? See verses 22, 28 and 34. How would you describe the man's attitude to the opposition he faced?
8. What similar consequences are there for following Jesus today? Why do you think this is?

Have you experienced any of these consequences personally?

9. Once again, Jesus puts forward an 'uncomfortable truth' about those who judge him wrongly. What is it, and what's your response?
10. Think together as a group about the issue of 'spiritual blindness.' What evidence of it do you see in your world from day to day? What makes you think it's worth being counted among the 'sighted' as someone who sees things in the light of the one who is the 'light of the world'?