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**John 9**  
Born Blind

This is another of my favorite Bible stories. Taken metaphorically, it reminds me of how I was born spiritually blind. Then someone opened my eyes to a specific teaching and how to study the Bible, and I began to see error in various things that I was taught. Adjusting my beliefs to what the Bible taught and sharing those things caused contention and separation from my church and friends similar to what happened to the man in this story.

Read John 9:1-5:

1. How did the disciples understand sin? Do you hear Christians today talk in a similar manner? (Cp Mk 7:2-4)

1a. How does the Bible define sin? Rom 14:23, NIV; Gal 2:16, YLT, KJV (versions with correct translation) {faith = is Christ's understanding; sinful thoughts lead to sinful actions, cf Mk 7:14-15. Mankind judges sin according to what they do or see see others do. God looks on the heart 1Sam 16:7; Mt 5:27-28}

2. What was Jesus indicating in Jn 9:4, 5? Jn 12:35-36 {night/day are used as metaphors of spiritual condition. Verse 4 indicates a time when no one will receive truth; verse 5: as long as Jesus is in your world, you have spiritual light, Mt 5:14-16}

Read John 9:6-38:

3. Instead of giving the man his sight on the spot, what reasons might Jesus have for anointing his eyes with clay mingled with spit and sending him to wash? Eph 1:18; 5:25-26; Jn 15:3; 6:63 {cf Gen 2:7; clay would be a symbol for fleshly thoughts, the spit representing the words of Jesus & the water of the word which washes away fleshly thoughts. Cf Isa 64:8; Job 4:17-19. By connecting physical things to spiritual lessons, we are reminded of the lessons when we see or think of them - i.e. spit, clay, water, laying on of hands}

4. What lesson can be learned from the general reaction of those who saw the man after he was healed? Jn 9:8-9 {When I have shared something new that I have learned from the Bible, some will consider it, others will not}

5. What was the fear of the parents when questioned whether or not this man was their son? Jn 9:18-23  
{have you ever encountered a person who refused to believe because it would disagree with their church teachings? This man was a testimony to all those around him, yet no one wanted to believe that Jesus was the Son of God, Jn 9:33-38}

Read John 9:39-41:

6. What does Jesus mean concerning judgment? “those who do not see, may see” and “those who do see, may be made blind.” {the sincere & honest in heart, more easily admit they lack understanding, and are more open to consider another opinion; whereas those not sincere & honest will not consider anything different, thinking they know the truth already, or they trust the leaders of their group. When truth is shared with another person who may be in error, that person judges self by their choice}

7. What did Jesus mean, *If you were blind, you might not have sin; but you say you see, therefore your sin remains?*

{God is love, 1Jn 4:8, and *it (love) keeps no record of wrongs*, 1Cor 13:5 NIV. The same Greek word rendered here as keeps record is used in 2Cor 5:19: (KJV) *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not keeping a record of their trespasses...* We are the ones keeping a record of our sins & of the sins committed against us. We are sinners, yet God does not judge us as sinners until we have a chance to accept & apply the truth. It is the reason Jesus told Nicodemus, a teacher in Israel, that to see the kingdom of heaven (Lk 17:20-21), one must be born from above [KJ born again] (Jam 1:17). The kingdom of heaven is a metaphor of the way God understands, Isa 55:7-11.}

7a. What difference is expressed between those who admit their spiritual blindness, as compared to those who say that they are not blind, but know the truth? Jn 9:39, 41

{Truth sets one free from sin, Jn 8:31-32. Sin cannot be removed from those who refuse to consider that what they are believing is error, & a false belief cannot bring a person to think like God.}

Psalms 103:10-14: *10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy toward those who fear Him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, Yahweh pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our form, remembering that we are dust.* MKJV