**BCM Bible Study – April 18/19, 2018**

**Signs of John: Healing of the Man Born Blind (John 9:1-7)**

Background: This is the 6th sign recorded in John. The transition from the events in the end of chapter 8 (a confrontation with the Pharisees) and the beginning of chapter 9 has been interpreted 2 ways: 1) the events happened one right after the other or 2) there was some length of time between them (day or two at max). However, all of these events take place during the Festival of Tabernacles/ Booths.

**Jesus the Healer: Read John 9:1-7**

* As Jesus was walking and talking with his friends (the Twelve), he noticed this man.
  + When you are with your friends, what is the likelihood that you would notice someone outside of your group? Would you stop to help them if they were in need?
* The disciples likely asked their question in reference to where the law states that children can be punished for the sins of the parents over multiple generations. There was also debate at this time as to whether unborn children can sin inside the womb.
  + “Jesus pointed the question away from why and on to the idea, what can God do in this?” (David Guzik); “Jesus shifts the focus, and instead of addressing the cause of the man's blindness he speaks of its purpose.” (Bible Gateway)
    - How do these quotes change the way you view hardships and trials?
    - Where have you experienced something bad that happened for no apparent reason? What was your reaction to the event? Did you eventually see God’s power shown through it later? If yes, how so?
* This man was born blind. Up to this point, there was no record of someone born with blindness being healed. (Word Biblical; David Guzik)
  + What does this tell you about the healing powers of Christ? Where in your life is there something you feel cannot be healed? How/ where can you trust Christ to provide healing?
* Look at verse 7. The man follows Jesus’ instructions without question.
  + Where is God calling you to follow His direction that leads to healing?
  + What is keeping you from submitting to Him in this area?
* Based on the discussions of the last few signs of John, one can see that Jesus only engages in life-giving, healing deeds. (Baylor University, Jesus as Healer)
  + *Rhetorical Questions to think about while answering next bullet: Are we likewise engaged in life-giving deeds or are we involved in death-dealing deeds? Do our actions bring meaning to the lives of others or do they rob life of the meaning intended by the Creator?*
  + How can we share this meaning with the sick and despairing people to whom we minister? What actions accompany this?

**Jesus as Light**

* Look again at verse 5.
  + What does the concept of Jesus as light bring to mind for you?
* After the man is healed, he is taken before the Pharisees who question him because he was healed on the Sabbath. The man’s parents are also questioned because the Pharisees did not believe he really was blind to begin with. The parents answer questions about their son, but refuse to answer about Jesus for fear of being excommunicated. Unsatisfied with the parent’s timid answers, the Pharisees call the man back again for questioning. **Read John 9:24-41**
  + Compare your confidence navigating a dark room versus a room with the light on. Then compare the man before and after he is healed. How does his confidence change?
    - How would you feel about answering the Pharisees questions truthfully knowing they could kick you out of the church? What do we have as Christians that gives us the same confidence in Christ that this man had in the face of belligerent questioning and persecution?
  + How do the Pharisees react to hearing the truth the healed man speaks? Why do you think they reacted this way?
  + “[The Pharisees] reject the [healed] man, the miracle, and the One through whom God wrought it. In doing so they reject the shining of the Light upon them, and plunge further into their darkness.” (Word Biblical)
    - Where is God trying to work in your life that you are pushing Him away?
  + “It is not our littleness that hinders Christ; but our bigness. It is not our weakness that hinders Christ; it is our strength. It is not our darkness that hinders Christ; it is our supposed light that holds back his hand.” –Charles Spurgeon
    - Where in your life is your bigness, your strength, your light (pride) getting in the way of where Christ wants to work in your life? What are ways we can become more self-aware of those areas?

**Jesus as Messiah: Read Isaiah 42:1-7**

* How do you see these verses connect with what we’ve discussed so far through this study?
* What parts of these verses do you recognize from other parts of the New Testament? How does this increase your confidence in Jesus as the Messiah?

**Conclusion:**

1. What is Jesus telling us about Himself through this sign?
2. What do we learn about God the Father?