**WHEN OUR EYES ARE OPENED**

**John 9:1-11**

**SOMETIMES WE GO THROUGH TRIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GOD’S WORK BEING DISPLAYED**

* *“As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ 3 ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ Jesus answered. ‘This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him.’”* (John 9:1-3)
* *“You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials 7 so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* (1 Peter 1:6-7)
* **When we are fixated on getting past the struggles we find ourselves in, we can miss out on what God is doing in the struggle.**
* “The Lord gets his best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction.” **– C.H. Spurgeon**
* Read (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

**GOD OFTEN HAS EXPECTATIONS OF US BEFORE WE WILL EXPERIENCE HIS POWER IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCE**

* **The first step in embracing the Lord’s instructions is our acknowledgement that we are “blind” and need sight.**
* *“After he said these things he spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. 7 ‘Go,’ he told him, ‘wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means “Sent”). So he left, washed, and came back seeing.”* (John 9:6-7)
* **Rather than despising the process that Jesus leads us through, we find victory over the struggles through obedience to His instructions.**
* *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways know Him, and He will make your paths straight.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

**NOT EVERYONE WILL BELIEVE YOUR TESTIMONY ABOUT WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR YOU**

* **The beauty of the Lord working in ways that are only explainable as His divine intervention, is that He is the only one who can get the credit and receive the glory for the outcome.**
* *“His neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar said, ‘Isn’t this the one who used to sit begging?’ 9 Some said, ‘He’s the one.’ Others were saying, ‘No, but he looks like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I’m the one.’ 10 So they asked him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ 11 He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, “Go to Siloam and wash.” So when I went and washed I received my sight.’”* (John 9:8-11)
* **Regardless of who doesn’t believe that God is working in your life, and your situations, the transforming power of God will shine through for all to see.**
* *“What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”* (Romans 8:31)
* **Other people’s denials do not negate effective work of Christ in your life.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE BREAKER:** What is one thing or place you want to see in person, but yet have to?

**Start Thinking:**

* What does John 9:1-11 teach us about Jesus?
* Why do you think Jesus put spit/mud cakes on the man’s eyes and instructed him to go to the pool of Siloam rather than just healing him outright?
* Why was the pool of Siloam significant?

**Dig Deeper:**

* How would you define legalism? Why is it so dangerous?
* How might you fall into legalism during suffering? How can you avoid it?
* What condition were you in when Jesus found you? In what ways has he given you “sight” since then?
* How do you handle people who don’t believe in your testimony/testimonies of what Jesus has done for you?
* How can you encourage others who are going through difficulties and challenging situations?
* What’s your biggest takeaway from this message?

**Pray:**

* Share prayer requests and pray for each other.
* Pray for our community to be open to the Gospel.
* Pray for our church, and leadership.
* Pray for our government leaders, and local leaders.
* Pray about anything else the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for.