

Last week we looked at Jesus as *Lord of Fear* as He walked on the water in the storm. This week we look at John 9:1-7 and Jesus as *Lord of Light*.

1. Have you ever experienced a blackout? A time when all the electricity was off and you found yourself in darkness bumping into things? How did this make you feel?
2. Blindness in the biblical times was a condition that was far more disabling than blindness is today. In a largely agrarian society, blindness often meant a life of poverty and dependence upon others for even the basics of existence. Just as a form of physical disability was seen to have spiritual implications and limitations of service in the Old Testament, so particularly did blindness.
 - **Read Leviticus 21:16-23** to see the effect blindness had on the qualifications of a man to be a priest and **Leviticus 22:22, Deuteronomy 15:21, and Malachi 1:8** to see about blindness of animals chosen for sacrifice.
 - Beyond disqualification for spiritual service, blindness was often seen as a punishment for sin. **Read Exodus 4:11, Deuteronomy 28:28, 2 Kings 6:18, and Ezekiel 6:9** to find some scriptural basis for this idea.
3. **Read John 9:1-2.** The disciples asked Jesus a troubling theological question. What was their fundamental issue with the man's blindness?
 - The question they asked is similar to the modern question of why bad things happen to good people. They wondered whether a person born with a deformity could have sinned before his own birth to cause this calamity to befall him. How does **Psalm 58:3** imply the same idea?
 - On the other hand, there is also a scriptural basis for the sins of parents to result in punishment to the child. **Read Exodus 20:5 (or Deuteronomy 5:9)** to find this idea expressed in the giving of the Ten Commandments. In what ways do people make similar judgments today?
3. **Read John 9:3-5.**
 - What was Jesus' answer to their question?
- What does this answer mean to us today when we encounter people suffering?
4. In **John 9:5**, Jesus says that he is the *Light of the world*.
 - **Read John 8:12** to find Jesus using this same phrase. What are the differences of these two similar statements by Jesus?
 - **Read Isaiah 9:2.** What is the spiritual significance that the prophet Isaiah places on light and darkness? **Read John 1:1-13** and see what John says about light and darkness.
5. **Read John 9:6.** What physical action did Jesus do as part of the healing of the blind man? Read **Mark 8:22-26** and **Mark 7:32-35** to discover other healings by Jesus with similar features. What are the similarities and what are the differences in these accounts?
6. After Jesus placed the mud on the man's eyes, **John 9:7** says Jesus told the man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam.
 - **Read 2 Kings 5:10-14** to find another account of a person instructed to go and wash as part of a healing. What part does the washing play in the healing? Does the water or the mud have healing power?
 - **John 9:7** says that the name of the fountain means "*sent*." In **Isaiah 8:6**, this same fountain is mentioned only a few verses before the reference to light in **Isaiah 9:2**. What does the earlier Isaiah reference indicate about the attitude of the people toward this fountain and its spiritual meaning?
7. **John 9:13-34** goes into further detail about a controversy brought up by the Pharisees concerning this healing. What are the similarities to the earlier sign of the lame man healed in **John 5:9-17**?
8. Simple Questions:
 - What might we learn about human nature from this *sign*?
 - What might this *sign* tell us about our common needs?
 - What is this *sign* telling us about Jesus?

Pray That God would allow us you to bring awareness of Jesus, the Lord of Light, to a hopelessly darkened world.