

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

w/c 16th April 2023

Come and See – Where is this man?

We're working our way through the gospel of John in our Sunday morning services. Our home group studies will pick up the topic from the Sunday before the meeting. This means we won't cover the whole of the Gospel of John in these outlines. Feel free to adapt this content, or to study other passages.

John wrote his gospel so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20 v 30&31). As we study John together, keep that purpose in mind and ask, "How does this passage help me believe that Jesus is the Messiah and so live life to the full (eternal life)?"

This study is for the passage from the morning service on 16th April. If people aren't able to be at the service then please encourage them to catch up online via YouTube or the talks page on the Belmont Exeter website.

This outline is the bare bones of the study: more thought needs to be given to the way you start and finish the evening, use (or don't use) the questions themselves, and think about the way this passage may affect your own group members. Think about the big ideas and how to apply them to everyday life. Here are three book titles you may find helpful to have available for study leaders through the series.

John for Everyone by Tom Wright, pub. SPCK, (short 'daily' chapters on each section)
The Message of John by Bruce Milne, pub. IVP (more in depth analysis and explanation)
John for You by Josh Moody, pub. Goodbook Co (sermon style & with focus on application)

BIG IDEA: Belief is about 'seeing' who Jesus is. We show him to others in our witness or words and actions.

WAY IN: Share examples from everyday life when you have come to understand / learn something new and the difference it made.

DIG IN

1. What part of the text or sermon had the greatest impact on you? Did you learn anything new about Jesus? The Bible? God? *This is an open question to see if there are particular themes to explore which are on the minds of the group.*

READ: John 9: 1-12 (the healing)

2. What assumption does the question of the disciples reveal? How does Jesus challenge that assumption?
3. What was the blind man's understanding of Jesus? (before and after being healed)
4. When the healed man tells his story, summarise the things to which he pays attention.

READ: John 9: 13 - 24 (the investigation)

5. What obstacles and objections cause the Pharisees to fail to accept the account of witnesses?

READ: John 9: 35 – 41 (the verdict)

6. Jesus finds the healed man. How does the man now respond to Jesus? How and why is it different to earlier in the chapter?
7. In verse 39 Jesus says, "For judgement I have come into this world, so that blind will see and those who see will become blind" To what judgement is Jesus referring? What do the pictures of sight and blindness suggest about belief?

LIVE IT OUT

1. (How) Have you been able to see God's work in the midst of suffering? What comfort can we have when God's purposes are less clear?
2. How does spiritual blindness impact how we engage with those who don't see Jesus for who He is? READ and discuss 2 Corinthians 4:3-6.
3. Telling the story of how Jesus has changed our lives is the simplest form of witness. We only need to tell of the change he has made. Are there examples of Jesus work that we'd like to share with others? Can we help each other recognize and share God's work?

PRAYER

Pray that our words and actions on our frontlines can show Jesus to others. Pray for the challenges and opportunities we face in sharing our stories.

Background

As well as the focal point of this healing in this chapter, John is also drawing together lots of his earlier ideas of light/sight , dark/blind, (see John 1:4,7,9-13, John 3:3, John 8:12). Salvation comes from accepting Christ, the light of the world.

In v35, Jesus is lining his identity to the image in Daniel 7:13&14. The use of this title was a continual provocation to the religious authorities.