Study Guide for May 24th, 2009 The Blind See John 9:1-12, 35-41

Introduction: Describe a time when rejection by people (perhaps those formerly close to you) brought you to a deeper understanding of Jesus and strengthened your faith in him.

I. The Miracle of Sight: (John 9:1-12)

A. The Man: (vs. 1-3)

1) Who takes the initiative? How long had the man experienced blindness?
2) What assumption underlies the disciples' question?
3) What explanation does Jesus give for the man's blindness?
4) How can we avoid making false assumptions regarding people's conditions?

B. The Messiah: (vs. 4-5)

1) Write out Jesus' words in vs. 4. What does it mean in light of this story?
2) Why does Jesus refer to the works **we** must do?
3) How does Jesus identify himself in vs. 5? (Recall John 8:12)
4) What leads to an appropriate sense of urgency regarding work God has for us?

C. The Miracle: (vs. 6-7)

1) How does Jesus heal the man? (Compare Mark 8:22-26 & 10:46-52)
2) John highlights the meaning of the name of the pool. What is the significance?
3) Consider the significance of these statements and prophecies in light of John 9
   a) Ex. 4:11
   b) Psalm 146:8:
   c) Isaiah 35 (esp. vs. 5)
   d) Isaiah 42:1-9 (esp. vs. 7)

D. The Mystery: (vs. 8-12)

1) What are the reactions of the man's neighbors?
2) How does the man describe what happened to him and who was responsible?
3) Why do you think Jesus drops out of the scene at this point?

Read the intervening passage (vs. 13-34) to appreciate the formerly blind man's character

II. The Miracle of Salvation: (John 9:35-41)

A. What has happened to the man healed of blindness? Why was he rejected?

B. What question does Jesus pose to the man? How does Jesus refer to himself?

C. What affirmation does the man make? How has he been changed?

D. How does Jesus' coming bring judgment? Why are the Pharisees incredulous?