

March 7th, “Light Of The World”
Part 4 in the series ‘What in the World?’

What were some things from last Sunday’s message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Can you remember the parable about the blind men and the elephant that Jim described in the message?

A: There’s an elephant with several blind men standing around it who have never come across an elephant before. Each man feels a different part of the elephant, but only one part e.g. the trunk. Based on their limited experience of the elephant, they each describe the elephant differently.

What is the parable meant to illustrate?

A: The parable is meant to illustrate how humans tend to make absolute truth claims based on their limited, personal, subjective experiences while dismissing other people’s very different limited, personal, subjective experiences.

In what ways does this parable describe how many people view God or religion?

Imagine that a man who can see comes along. What do you think he would say to the blind men about their limited experiences of the elephant?

John 9 tells the story of Jesus restoring the sight of a man who had been blind from birth. In verses 13-27 we learn that the Pharisees are investigating the healing. READ John 9:28-41:

28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! **29** We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

30 The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. **32** Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

34 To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

Spiritual Blindness

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

36 “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

37 Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

38 Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

41 Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

What are your thoughts verse 36, when the man says “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”?

Why do you think the Pharisees have such a negative reaction to the healing of the man born blind?

What do you think Jesus means when He says, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” (verse 39)?

What, according to Jesus’ interaction with the Pharisees, would be the first step in gaining spiritual sight?

A: recognizing that you are blind

READ John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

What do we have to face about ourselves when we orient ourselves towards God?

A: sin, evil and corruption in ourselves

Can you remember from the message what the word ‘repent’ means simply?

A: ‘Turn around, face the other direction...’

What are the ‘directions’ we can face?

A: Facing the light, Jesus **or** facing darkness, the world, evil

How does Jesus deal with our sin we turn to Him in repentance?

A: forgiveness

