

Preparation Questions

John 9: 1-41

Moths and Bats

Opener: What doubts about Jesus' work might we have when we look around at a city which by and large won't accept his teaching?

Recap: What are the big things we've discovered about Jesus' identity; his mission; and the reaction of the Jews? What questions have we been left with, particularly after 8v59?

Text 1: List the similarities between the healing and following exchanges in ch 9-10 with the healing and exchanges in ch 5. What do these similarities show us about what Jesus has come to do and what we're to make of the hostile reactions to him?

Text 2: How do Jesus' explanations in v3- 5 & v39 help us understand what we are being shown in this episode? In chapter 8v12, Jesus described himself as the light of the world – what impact therefore is his 'light' having on the blind man and the unbelieving Jews?

Text 3: Fill in the rest of the table to notice the development through the chapters of the blind man's 'sight' and the development of the 'blindness' of the unbelieving Jews? (NB particularly notice their contrasting approach to the evidence.)

Blind man's growing belief	Pharisees/Jews growing unbelief
V7 obeys Jesus' word (recognises he's got a problem)	V16 Questions about the Sabbath
V11	V17-18
V17	V22
V25	V24
V27	V27
V30-33	V34/40
V38	

Sum up and apply: If we were doubting the effectiveness of Jesus' work after chapters 5-8, or indeed after looking around us in the City and noticing the lack of belief in Jesus, how does chapter 9 explain the hostile reaction and assure us that his mission is on track?

What lessons are there in this chapter for us and others who are weighing up whether to believe in Jesus or not?