

(1) How do you react to the method Jesus chose to heal the man born blind? Is it so weird and strange that you find yourself cringing? Do you struggle with some of the strange things that happen when the Spirit manifests his power? If so, why? How might you overcome your discomfort?

(2) What does this story in John 9 tell us about the relationship between sin and suffering? What does it tell us about the sovereignty of God over disabilities like blindness?

(3) In the sermon I said this: “The frightening thing is how often we all use our religious commitments to justify keeping Jesus at arm’s length. There is no sadder irony in the kingdom of God than the way we use our religious laws and traditions to quench the activity of the Holy Spirit.” Can you identify any examples or illustrations of this in your own experience?

(4) How does the fear of man, the fear of what others think or the fear of what they may do, affect our response to the miraculous? What is your reaction when you read of the response of the parents of the man born blind?

(5) With whom do you identify most in this story: the blind man who is healed, his parents, or the Pharisees? Explain your answer.