

***Study Hints for Thinking Further***  
***International Bible Lessons***

**John 9:1-17**

**Sunday, April 29, 2012**

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Five Questions for Discussion  
and Thinking Further**

**1. How might Jesus' attitude and response toward the man born blind be a good example for His followers today when we remember that Jesus said, "He was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him" (John 9:3)?**

Jesus chose not to discuss the sins of others with His disciples or anyone else. Jesus chose to think about (and sometimes discuss) how He could do the work of God in someone's life – that might be raising someone from the dead (as with Lazarus), saving someone from death and future sins (as with the woman caught in adultery), or graciously sharing the good news that He was the Messiah

to save someone from their sins and grant them eternal life through faith in Him (as with the Samaritan woman at the well). We might consider how we can do the work of God in helping someone – no matter what their condition or problems.

**2. Can you think of some examples from history or your own experiences when and where it was easier to do the work of God rather than at a later time and place? What does this teach you and your church?**

Without discussing nations where I have not lived, before and after changes in governments or control by different political groups, I know that at one time it was easier in the United States of America to teach about Jesus and share the good news about Jesus, when Bible reading and prayer was allowed in the public schools, and when the Ten Commandments and nativity scenes could be displayed on the lawns of government buildings. From these experiences and others, we can learn to do NOW all that we can using the resources we have to teach others about Jesus Christ and help others with problems and concerns in Jesus' name. For example, currently Christians can teach the Bible and share the good news about Jesus in many nations using the Internet. In some nations soon, and perhaps in all nations someday, this freedom to teach the Bible may be banned or restricted.

### **3. What are some works of God that followers of Jesus can do today that they might not be allowed to do later “when night comes”?**

Meet safely in a public church building (in some places Christians cannot meet safely in public). Preach from the whole Bible (in some places Christians are not allowed to teach some Biblical doctrines). Freely give Bibles and other Christian books and literature at a street corner.

### **4. Why do you think Jesus made a paste to heal the man’s eyes rather than simply touch his eyes and heal him at the moment He spoke to him?**

Some of Jesus’ reasons might include the following. Jesus may have wanted to show and teach by doing that medicines and medical procedures were appropriate for doctors and patients to use, and that it was not a sin or a lack of faith to take medicines or receive treatment from doctors. In this case, the blind man had to demonstrate his faith in Jesus, the great physician, the medicine Jesus used (mud He made from dirt and spit), and the treatment Jesus prescribed (washing at specific pool and not at home or somewhere else). Jesus may have wanted to gradually build up the man’s faith in him and allow him to demonstrate his faith so he could also be a good witness to others about Jesus and what Jesus said and did. The man was an excellent and reliable witness.

**5. What good example or examples does the blind man give us when he washed his eyes at the pool of Siloam and was able to see after he washed them?**

The blind man whom Jesus healed did exactly what Jesus told him to do before he was healed. He obeyed Jesus explicitly and immediately and then received his eyesight. He was a perfect witness when he answered people's questions, and he told them what Jesus had said and done. He did not exaggerate or modify in anyway what Jesus had said and done. In spite of the fact that some who thought Jesus was a sinner would disagree with him, and perhaps ridicule him for his belief, he told people that he thought Jesus was a prophet, which would mean a man of God.

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