

## JOY IN THE JOURNEY XI



### “Why Should I Pay Attention?” - John 9

**Sermon Idea:** *We hear God best when we accept his word from unlikely sources.*

**Intro:** What a contrast – being told the truth when it hurts vs. being told the truth that makes one happy. Remember getting the word that you failed your driver’s test? (Some of us do!) Remember the smiling doctor entering the waiting room, “It’s a girl?” (Some of us found out that way in the old days!) A crisis today is Christians struggling to know who/what to believe. (Ouch. Lord help us!) We can trust Jesus to teach us about hearing from God. Let’s look...

#### **Read and discuss: John 9: 1-41**

1. What a great account in Jesus ministry – Take time to review: Who are the various players or voices? Identify the six or seven sequences or conversations. Note the many QUESTIONS asked in each scene.
2. Was the question on the Disciple’s minds the right question? What was Jesus more concerned about?
3. We’d “love” to have friends like this guy (v.13) – taking him to the Pharisees! What is their complaint? What conclusion (v.17) is reached in Round 1 of truth-speaking?
4. Round 2 (vv. 24-34) is the heart of the story. Are you surprised at the man’s boldness? What are his points? How do the Pharisees handle the truth from this man?
5. Looking further at the Pharisees’ problem: Why are they threatened –what can be the causes of their reluctance to accept the truth? Do we have similar struggles?
6. Are there people you know who find it hard to speak truth to power? Are there people who find it hard to hear the truth? Whose voices today need to be heard and believed?
7. Let’s dig deeper – Who are the sources we believe and don’t believe on spiritual matters? Do we have our favorites? The real question: How do we discern the truth and voice of God from false claims? Are there “truth tests” sprinkled throughout Scripture?
8. Have you ever struggled accepting good words, advice, even rebuke from surprising places? Maybe the opposite – are there cases where you knew it was God speaking through surprising sources? (Review too the NT illustrations from the sermon...)
9. The formerly blind man gets the truth with a final encounter with Jesus. (vv. 35-38). What is most satisfying about his response? We pray for this scene to be repeated over and over –Amen!
10. It’s encouraging that a few Pharisees seem humbled and ask Jesus if they are blind. Can we humbly pray and ask God to help us see His truth clearly? Let us pray for truth, trust, joy and unity in our Journey with Christ together.

**Jesus said:** *“If you old to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32*