

# Welcome to Bible Study 19 MARCH 2023 - Rev Darren King

## GRADUAL INSIGHTS

### Opening Prayer (pray together)

Almighty God, my Father, thank You for being with me, please stay with me, that I may not wane in my devotion to You. Remind me always of the purpose, as You revealed through Isaiah: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke, to share my food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, to clothe the naked and not to turn away from you. Please let it be that my light will break forth like the dawn, and my healing will quickly appear, that my righteousness will go before me, and the glory of the Lord will be my rear guard, that I will call, and You will answer, that I will cry for help, and You will say: Here am I! Amen.

Welcome 🙏

**Q 1 Have you ever been in a situation like a dark place where you couldn't see your hand in front of your face? How did you feel?**

Worship 🎵

Choose your own worship favourites and these ones too!

The Lord is my shepherd

Amazing Grace

**Word; Psalm 23**

**A psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## **Word; John 9.1-41      Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind**

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So, the man went and washed, and came home seeing. <sup>8</sup> His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

<sup>10</sup> “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. <sup>11</sup> He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

<sup>12</sup> “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

### **The Pharisees Investigate the Healing**

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. <sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. <sup>19</sup> “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

<sup>20</sup> “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind.

<sup>21</sup> But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup> He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

<sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?” <sup>28</sup> Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. <sup>32</sup> Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup> To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

### **Spiritual Blindness**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

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

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” <sup>41</sup> Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

**Q 2 Jesus heals a blind man. Instead of incredible joy people start questioning what sins he or his parents must have committed. Please discuss**

**Q 3 Imagine being completely blind and seeing everything for the first time. Imagine the overwhelming joy you would of been filled with, it saddens me that an absolute miracle happened and the Pharisees wanted to argue about his sins. Please discuss**

**Q 4 I am amazed at the tolerance and compassion of Jesus. I imagine him shaking his head at the blatant stupidity of the religious leaders. They were so spiritual and holy yet they couldn’t see compassion, love or anything that Jesus was about. Do you think we can be spiritually blind to the joy or needs of others?**

### **Works**

What have we been blind to this week?

### **Ending Prayer (pray together)**

God, You are my God, and I seek You earnestly (Psalm 63:1). I seek You as I undertake this week. I bow before You and ask You to purge me of all unworthy thoughts, words and deeds. Forgive my sins as I forgive those who have sinned against me. Keep me strong and alert during this week. Protect me from the Evil One, deliver me from temptation and steer my mind and heart away from all distractions. Help me to bring my spirit, soul, body and mind into subjection and focus them on You, to whom all praise belongs, Amen.

**Shalom Rev Darren King (Ref Roots on the web, The Message)**