

Home Group Study Material for w/c 19th September 2011 Giving sight (Matthew 20:29-34)

Suggested questions for discussion – as usual please modify them as appropriate for your group

The aim of the study is firstly to remember how we became spiritually sighted (i.e. sharing our first personal encounter with Jesus). Secondly, it's to understand how we can play our part in helping others to find their spiritual sight.

1. *'Intro' question:* What aspect of sighted life would you miss most if you were to suddenly become blind?

Please read Matthew 20:29-34

2. Encourage each other by sharing the stories of how you each became a Christian. How and when did you become spiritually sighted? What made you choose to have Jesus as your Lord and Master? Was anyone else involved? How has your life changed since then?
3. The two blind men recognised Jesus as the Son of David (in effect the Christ, the longed-for saviour of the Jews). What kind of things prevent people today from seeing who Jesus is? How can we help them to overcome their blindness in this?
4. Why were the two blind men so determined to meet Jesus, that they ignored the rebukes of the crowd (v31)? What can we learn from this?
5. Encourage each other by sharing a time when you were rescued from a 'desperate' situation, after crying out to God for help. What happened? How did it feel to receive God's mercy? What did it do to your faith?
6. The two blind men knew what they wanted from Jesus. Imagine that Jesus was to suddenly join your Home Group at this point and asked you: *"What do you want me to do for you?"* (v32) What would your answer be?
7. *"A compassionate heart finds it impossible to remain neutral when it sees a need. It's a reminder that the most important message we have to deliver to this lost world is "God cares.""*

How can we deliver the message "God cares" to those who need it?

8. Showing our servant hearts to non Christians can break down the toughest spiritual barriers and help a blind world to see Jesus. So finish the study by either choosing one of the practical ideas suggested above or choosing one of the ideas in my sermon, and commit to trying to carry it out over the next two weeks

Issued by Jeremy Bamber on 16/9/11