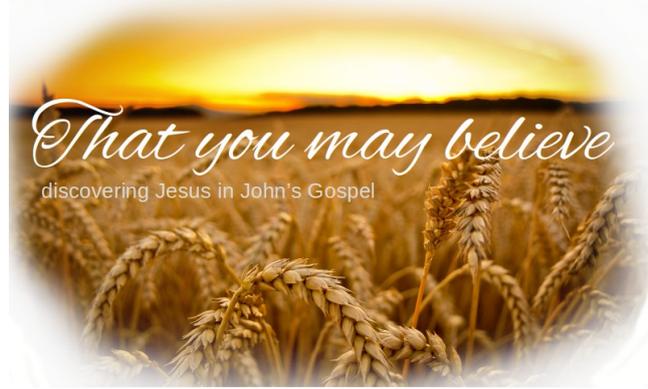


## Week 6: Eye opener



“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.”

John 21:25

The fifth sign John chooses is one that calls us to see God in a new way. To realise that God is so much bigger that we can ever conceive of, or imagine. That the rules we know him by, can become restraints that restrict our ability to think bigger thoughts and see God in a new way.

Perhaps you have faced this challenge yourself, how can you believe in someone you have never seen? Or maybe you think that your own faith and trust in Jesus will grow, if only you saw a really big miracle.

### Read John 9:1-35

1. When did the blind man first trust Jesus? When did he actually see Jesus?
2. What was it that stopped the Pharisees from believing that this was from God?
3. You may be able to remember thing that in the past the church frowned upon or even stood against. Are there rules and perhaps views we hold today that hold us back?
4. What might those things be?

### Deeper In

Who is to blame? We talk today about living in a blame culture, but verse 2 suggests this is nothing new. How do we explain apparently unexplainable suffering? Some religious leaders through the ages have held onto a verses like **Exodus 34:7** with unholy glee, because if you are suffering you or a relative must have sinned! You are guilty! You should repent! It is very simple and straight forward in a way that is very unusual in the Scriptures, and Jesus actually tells his disciples, it is not like that at all.

The context behind Exodus 34. Moses had to recreate the tablets of stone which the laws was written on, because he smashed the first set (Ex 32) when the Hebrews had rebelled.

- ◆ If God’s people failed to keep the law and fail to teach their children to keep the law, generations would go by disobeying the law. That makes sense and happens in the Old Testament.
- ◆ Innocent individuals suffering for the misdemeanours of their great, great, great grandfather does not happen in the Bible.

### Read Jeremiah 31:27-34 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-19

- Jeremiah looks forward to a time when things will change. In what ways?
- In John 9, how does Jesus encourage his followers to see the blind man’s circumstances?
- How would things be different if instead of seeking blame, we looked for ways to glorify God?
- Paul tells us that God was reconciling us to himself through Christ, not counting our sin against us (2 Cor 5:18-19). What do you think that means?
- Is that a blame culture, or a culture that seeks to bring blessing?
- Paul goes on to say that we have that message of reconciliation. How does that change the way we look on worldly situations?

Next Time: John 11:14-45 – Living together